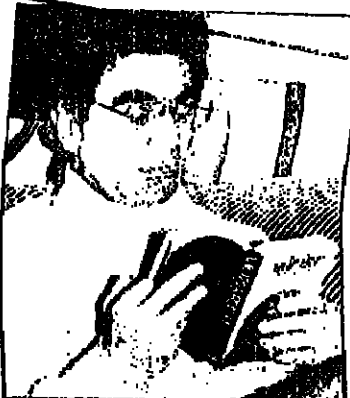


Float like a butterfly, sting like a BA. Victoria Koir talks to three members of the LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE theatre who have just graduated with the new Kent-validated degree in dance (page 11)

After Jasmine, what? Robert Pinker looks at the position of SOCIAL WORK education and the need for urgent change (page 12)

Bringing it all back home: in the final part of our series on ANTHROPOLOGY, Mary Bouquet considers how lessons learned from "exotic" societies can be applied in our own back yard; Richard Jenkins asks if, now we no longer have an Empire to run, anthropology is still viable as a separate discipline (page 13)

How to be top: Philip Thydy has been sitting on some CIVIL SERVICE selection boards and manages to explode a few myths. They're not just interested in your accent or how you hold your knife (page 14)



British sociology has long been like the British motor industry: second best by most yardsticks to Continental models, but deserving of a grudging loyalty. So it's heartening, as Roger Silverstone argues, to give full measure of praise to BASIL BERNSTEIN, whose work is discussed in a new book (page 15)

Home news	1-6
Patrick Nuttgens	2
Letters to the editor	2
Antithesis	3
Don's Diary (Lorna Weatherill)	4
Union View (AUT)	5
Party Line (Jack Straw)	6
Overseas news	7-8
Articles	9-14
Column (Ernest Boyer)	12
Books	15-19
Noticeboard	20
Classified advertising	21-23

Review of 1984
Travels broadens the behind
Food and food policy research
The great Devonian controversy

HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT
Priory House, St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX. Telephone 01-253 3000

On a winter's afternoon

Higher education must serve the nation, we are told. Who in government could doubt the willingness of universities, polytechnics and colleges to do their plain patriotic duty, and who in higher education would claim that they had any right to stand outside the community of the nation? Well, there may always have been a few of both. But until very recently their number and their influence were negligible. The identification between the academy and the nation appeared complete.

Today there are more people in Westminster and Whitehall, and maybe the City too, who doubt the patriotism of higher education - which is why they so frequently assert that it must serve the nation, an exhortation that seemed quite redundant until these very last few years. There are also more people in universities, polytechnics and colleges who are made uneasy by this cumulative reiteration of their patriotic duty, which seems to them less a reminder more an indictment.

So the tension between the academy and the polity, or any rule its present rulers, has increased. The former suspects that the idea of the nation has been hijacked for contestable purposes; the latter is increasingly sceptical about the patriotism of higher education. The trouble of course is that this obligation to serve the nation is now much more narrowly defined and also more directly, even oppressively, specified. Once the nation appeared to embody competing programmes and so to serve as a focus for a common allegiance that transcended political differences.

In retrospect it is easy enough to disparage these "national" commitments and beliefs. In postwar Britain they consisted of little more than an Atlanticist foreign policy, Keynesian economic policy, and a social policy based on a bureaucratic (and paternalist?) welfare state. This desiccated

programme of the great-and-the-good class hardly seems sacred and above politics from the cynical perspective of the 1980s. Similar deflationary jobs could be done on the "national" programmes of Britain between the wars, or those of Edwardian or Victorian Britain.

The difficulty today is that we have no "national" programme, no broad patriotic culture that can be distinguished from the programme of the Government of the day. So patriotic and political allegiances have become dangerously and confusingly mingled. The nation is no longer an expression of the continuity of our community, a tradition that can be shared but not owned, a multilateral definition. Instead it has become a unilateral definition, a possession that is won and lost in the rapid battles of political rivals.

Some people of course will not regret this eclipse of a comprehensive patriotic culture. For both the radical right and the radical left regard such a culture as a dangerous confidence trick. The former argues that it is wrong to imagine that a nation can be anything more than an aggregate of individuals and their needs and desires. The latter sees patriotism as the fig leaf of class power, an attempt to persuade the oppressed that present society is more than simply the instrument through which the power of the rulers is expressed. Even among good democrats who reject both these crude and extreme views there is a reluctance to make too much of the idea of the nation. A bland cynicism seems safe, but any attempt to revive that "national" programme produced by an unselected establishment would have precedence over political programmes chosen in free elections must inevitably raise serious and difficult questions in a democracy.

Yet there are contrary arguments equally persuasive. Perhaps democrats need continuity more than other more authoritarian forms of government. The life of a nation and the lives

of individual citizens cannot be chopped up into arbitrary electoral segments. Nothing worthwhile can be achieved in a highly complex and sophisticated modern society unless there is a substructure of consensus that can be trusted. The development of a modern system of higher education and science certainly requires such stability of intentions.

But it is more than expediency. To suppose that the present can dispose entirely of the past, to imagine that we inhabit some sterile value-free environment, is not only ahistorical but also amoral. The nation in its best definition acts as a moral tradition that embodies our best achievements as a community; it cannot be reduced to the most advantageous arrangement of the resources available to us in the transitory present. In education above all this latter view of the nation can never be accepted as the dominant definition. For it is the nation in its former broader sense that schools, colleges and universities must serve.

It is possible to go further and to link our sense of nation as a moral tradition with a sense of religion that breaks through all national frontiers. Maybe the former is simply a feeble form of the transcendence which is celebrated so much more fully in the latter. Certainly the links between nation and history and religion are deep and subtle. In *Little Gidding* T. S. Eliot wrote:

We are born with the dead:
See, they return, and bring us with them.
The moment of the rose and the yew-tree,
Of equal duration. A people with
our history, who are not redeemed from time, for history
is a pattern.
Of timeless moments. So, while the light falls
On a winter's afternoon, in a secluded
chapel
History is now and England.

University image makers

The story is that the vice chancellors fell for a carefully baited hook when they reacted so positively to Sir Keith Joseph's remark that the universities should provide him with the evidence to persuade his Cabinet colleagues to give them more money. At the time of their September meeting in Leicester when the remark was made it seemed to many vice chancellors that the Secretary of State was trying to rebuild broken bridges by adopting a more sympathetic tone to the troubles of the universities. As a result they were more than ready to accept his challenge to provide him with the evidence he demanded.

The more cynical or sober reflection prefer another version of the Leicester speech. They see Sir Keith's offer as a deliberate PR trick for which the vice chancellors fell. Up to September the Government had been pinned back on the defensive over its Green Paper, which had been almost universally condemned to the surprise delight of many university and polytechnic leaders and to the savage despair of ministers and civil servants. After six long years of cuts the initiative seemed to have passed back to the defenders of higher education. But not for long. Since the Leicester speech the Government is back on the PR offensive. The vice chancellors have saddled themselves with this Sisyphian burden of producing evidence to convince politicians who have no intention of being convinced that universities need more money.

Much of this failure is recognized by the vice chancellors. For the last two years their committee has been struggling to evolve a more effective public relations strategy. They are desperately aware that the university cuts have made only a slight impression on public opinion. The urgent need to organize an effective fight-back has been too obvious to be ignored. In the summer a committee, formerly chaired by Professor John Roberts, their vice-chancellor of Southampton, and now

chaired by Professor Michael Thompson, East Anglia's vice chancellor, published a report on public relations which offered a useful check list of good housekeeping recommendations designed to help universities improve their public image. The report was discussed in a desultory and inconclusive manner it seems, at the Leicester meeting when Sir Keith so carefully baited his hook.

Of course it is easy for an outside observer to criticize the vice chancellors' fumbling efforts to improve the public image of universities. There are great difficulties in the way of their achieving a coherent strategy. First such a strategy has to address two different audiences; it has to reassure those who work in universities and to impress the wider public world of politics, industry and the media. Getting the language right can be tricky; it must not appear too crude to the former or too complacent to the latter.

Second, universities are competing against each other - for students, for research grants, for the support of industry, and for the favour of politicians. During the last two years, at the same time as the vice chancellors' committee has been struggling to produce a more coherent PR strategy for all universities, individual universities have been building their own campaigns with the shining example of Salford's success beckoning them forward. Several which managed to struggle through the difficult period of student disorder during the late 1960s and 1970s without feeling any need to appoint an information officer, or director of external relations have now made such appointments. The priority for most universities may be to build, or rebuild, their local constituencies. But the potential for inter-university rivalry on the national plane can hardly be ignored.

Third, the vice chancellors' committee is ill-prepared to take on a more aggressive PR role. It is bound to

proceed by a cautious consensus which inhibits decisive action, particularly perhaps action in an alien field like PR which is inherently distasteful to many in universities. Its administrative habits are rooted in the quiet low-key world of university administration. Its lobbying skills, a quiet word over lunch at the Admiralty or a discreet paper directed at civilised civil servants, are dated. Under Lord Flowers' chairmanship the vice chancellors' committee began to learn about the urgent need to adapt to the colder climate of the 1980s, and its education continues. But too rapid a transformation cannot and should not be expected.

So the current proposal by the vice chancellors' committee to appoint an expensive PR expert and to provide him/her with the necessary back-up needs to be examined with great care. Not, of course, because it is too ambitious. The universities' need to improve their public image need to be met. The committee to organize an impressive publicity campaign which cost far more than the expenditure at present being contemplated by the committee.

Rather the concern arises from the considerable doubt about whether the vice chancellors are the best people to run such a campaign on behalf of the universities, or at any rate about whether it is desirable to locate such a PR effort within the office of their committee. Almost certainly any campaign would be inhibited by the committee's consensual caution and would be enervated by the bureaucratic procedures which are inevitable in such an office. A far better solution would be to establish a separate university information unit, which would work in close collaboration with the vice chancellors but which other organizations might also help to sponsor. Or perhaps even a higher education information unit. This would almost certainly offer both better value for money and more effective publicity.

Laurie Taylor



Now then, Doctor Wernitz, you look like a man who could do with a top-up.

Thank you, Vice Chancellor. Most acceptable. Cheers!
Cheers, Doctor Wernitz. Not too clove-ey for you?

Not at all. Ideal for such a chilly evening.

And a little more for you, Mrs Wernitz?

Thank you, Vice Chancellor. Skol! Skol, Mrs Wernitz. And you both enjoyed the meal?

Quite delicious, Vice Chancellor. And such an excellent opportunity to get to know colleagues from different faculties.

That's something one hopes for, Doctor Wernitz.

A chance to exchange ideas.

One likes to think so.

Get some sense of how the other half lives.

Yes, indeed.

To me it seems somehow part of the meaning of Christmas. New friendships. A sense of sharing.

Very well phrased, Doctor Wernitz. Do let me tip you up.

Thank you, Vice Chancellor. Will the best!

All the best, Doctor Wernitz.

I mean, I was sitting - quite by chance - next to a Doctor Campling, and we had a long, long talk about our shared attitudes on contemporary morality before he realized I was Communication and Media Studies and I found out he was Forestry and Soil Erosion. It simply made no difference.

I'm so pleased to hear it.

And then there was Doctor Campling's colleague, Doctor Seddle who happened to be across the table from me, and Doctor Caister also of Soil Erosion who was on my immediate right. A splendid group.

You all seemed to be getting on admirably.

Oh yes. In fact, Vice Chancellor, by the end of the evening we were all good friends.

Indeed?

All good friends and jolly good company - as the song would have it.

Ah yes. One small question, though, Doctor Wernitz. Yes, sir?

Do you really feel that this new found solidarity with colleagues in Forestry and Soil Erosion is likely to last into the New Year?

I sense that you may be a little cynical about the Christmas spirit, Vice Chancellor?

Not exactly, Doctor Wernitz. It's just that Planning Committee, having regard to the staff-student ratios, decided last week by a vote of eight to two that you should henceforth be transferred to that very department. Well, bottoms up!

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AUT members back one-day strike call

by David Jobbins

University lecturers are to go ahead with plans for further strike action after union members endorsed a call for a one-day stoppage later in January.

But they are to couple their action with renewed political pressure including a mass lobby of Parliament in the summer term and a "concerted" letter-writing campaign.

The Association of University Teachers voted in council in Newcastle upon Tyne backed executive plans for a "campaign of disruption" at the beginning of the 1986/87 academic year, but a threat to disrupt this year's examinations was lifted, with union leaders arguing that it could not be organized in time.

Plans for a possible go slow could affect university admissions.

While the Association of University Teachers does not intend to prevent the eventual registration of first-year students, the effects would be to postpone it perhaps for a week or two.

Next year, "AUT vice president Dr Bill Stephenson said. A final decision will be made at the union summer council. Non-marking may eventually form a crucial part of the campaign, but union leaders do not think it is use appropriate this year.

The union's leaders are conscious that only just over one third of the union members voted in support of the strike call. The margin was 10,871 votes to 9,051 with 19,926 out of about 29,000 members taking part - about 68 per cent of the membership.

This was not as wide a margin as

AUT leaders had hoped but they were confident it gave them the authority to press on with the action. They believe most universities will be affected by the strike which however is not intended to be disruptive. Although picket lines are expected to be mounted at most universities, members of other unions will not be asked to turn back.

AUT general secretary Ms Diana Warwick said: "No one believes a one day strike will win the campaign but it will demonstrate that university staff are not willing to be downed and trampled on by a government which shows it does not give a damn for the damage it is doing."

And another vice president, Dr Ron Emmanuel, called for picket lines to be mounted at all institutions "to close the system down". Members of the National and Local Government Officers Association are to join the strike on January 15 but technicians and manual workers are expected to work normally.

Members not to attend lectures, use libraries or other university services operated by academic and related staff on January 15.

A note of caution was issued by Mr John Berridge of Dundee University who warned that the strike had to be made effective. "It seems being at the head of the charge is more important to the executive than whether the charge gets anywhere or not."

Negotiations with the vice chancellors on the 1985 pay claim and discussions on structural changes are due to resume on January 20, five days after the strike.

Colleges surplus slammed

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish Correspondent

The powerful Commons Public Accounts Committee has criticized the Scottish Education Department over surplus space in its colleges of education.

The all-party committee's report, *Scottish Education Department: Control of Further Education Establishments*, says: "The lack of reliable and up to date figures on college capacity is totally unsatisfactory. The SED has demonstrated an unacceptable lack of action and urgency in dealing with this matter over a period of years."

The problem of surplus accommodation at the colleges has been growing for the past 10 years, says the report, but the SED has been using "crude indicators" such as floor space, or numbers of seats, which are not reliable.

The SED has for several years been pursuing a policy of merger and closure of colleges, but has only recently begun a new study which would enable them to take a very much more informed view of college use, the report says.

There are less than 500 hundred students at the comparatively new Dundee College of Education which was designed to accommodate 1,800 students, and only 1,000 students at Moray House, which, at one time housed over 3,000 students and even now could provide 2,250 places.

There are now only seven education colleges and "it is difficult to see that obtaining accurate information on capacity was a major task," says the report.

continued on page 3

SERC fails to decide on fate of observatories

by Jon Turney
Science Correspondent

The Science and Engineering Research Council is still unable to decide the future of its British-based astronomical observatories after over two years' debate.

The latest high-level group reviewing the issue has reached an impasse between a majority in favour of closing the Royal Greenwich Observatory at Herstmonceux in Sussex and a minority fighting to keep it open.

The group, chaired by the former chairman of council Sir John Kingman, will make an interim report to council in January. But the report will simply outline four options for future support of ground-based astronomy instead of

making any clear recommendation. Three of the options entail closing Herstmonceux, transferring staff to the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, or to a university, probably Cambridge. The fourth is to retain the status quo, with Greenwich keeping its role in providing support for the overseas telescopes on La Palma in the Canary Islands.

These were widely recognized as the main choices before the Kingman review began, but will now be published for further discussion before the council moves to a decision.

The Royal Greenwich Observatory only narrowly escaped closure two years ago when an earlier SERC review under Professor Peter Will-



Santa's elves are not the only toy-makers to have been borrowing toys from the central teaching hospitals to district general hospitals - is leading to a fall in the standards of patient care and of undergraduate and postgraduate education," said Professor Semple, arguing that not only is this at variance with the DES policy which is to concentrate limited resources in teaching hospital centres, but has been compounded by the threat posed by the continuing cutbacks in educational resources.

City's four-square response to London merger proposal

by Karen Gold

City University has battled suggestions of a merger with the City of London Polytechnic back to the Government, with a proposal for a new institution of higher education covering the whole City of London.

The university's council met this week to discuss the Department of Education and Science request that it collaborate in a feasibility study on a merger with the polytechnic.

The council's chairman, Lord Howie, had already written to the DES asking for a statement of Government policy underlying the encouragement for a merger, to which there was no reply at the court meeting.

But rather than agree to merger talks the council sent back another proposal for a feasibility study for it were broken off by the university last year. "Our offer still remains on the table, but we aren't going to leave it open for ever," Mr Fletcher said.

The DES intervention in the university's future, unprecedented in Britain, came in a letter on behalf of Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, and written by permanent secretary Sir David Hancock.

A council statement said this would be an opportunity "to create a unique institution matched to the needs of those who live and work in the City of London". City University's academic registrar, Dr Adrian Seville, said the

university had not had time to have discussions with the other institutions. "All we are saying at the moment is that if there is going to be a study - and we would like to know more about Government policy before embarking on one - let's have a study that embraces four institutions, not two," Dr Seville said.

The chairman of the Inner London Education Authority's further and higher education sub-committee, Mr Neil Fletcher, said that the authority would be glad if the university did now want to participate in a study, but would be concerned if it wanted to create a high-level institution that would exclude further education in the City and east London.

ILEA originally proposed a university-polytechnic merger in 1983, and talks on a feasibility study for it were broken off by the university last year. "Our offer still remains on the table, but we aren't going to leave it open for ever," Mr Fletcher said.

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Medics urge review

by Carolyn Dempster

Professors of clinical medicine in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are putting pressure on the Government to undertake an urgent review of medical education in teaching hospitals.

They say the future of medical education and research has been placed at risk by the fundamentally different policies of the Departments of Education and Science and Health and Social Security, and by the speed and severity of the funding cuts implemented by both the University Grants Committee and the National Health Service in recent years.

A three-man delegation led by Professor Steve Semple of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School met with the minister of health Mr Barney Hayhoe on an unofficial basis last week to convey the clinical academics' anxieties over the erosion of the medical teaching base. Following a letter to *The Times* co-signed by 23 professors of medicine in September.

The DES - the present policy of the DHSS - to re-allocate resources for patient care and teaching away from the central teaching hospitals to district general hospitals - is leading to a fall in the standards of patient care and of undergraduate and postgraduate education," said Professor Semple, arguing that not only is this at variance with the DES policy which is to concentrate limited resources in teaching hospital centres, but has been compounded by the threat posed by the continuing cutbacks in educational resources.

The effect of the UGC cuts is demonstrated in a recent report by the University Hospitals Association and National Association of Health Authorities on staffing changes in the 26 clinical medical schools in England and Wales from 1981 to 1984. It shows a total loss of 317 staff (expressed in full-time equivalents), with 488 posts abolished or frozen in the three-year period.

The UHA comments that the loss, combined with the reduction in Medical Research Council funding which began in 1984 "will have a considerable impact on high quality research in medical schools and postgraduate institutes and will also affect science training for some undergraduates".

The reports of the 26 deans attached to the report reflect clearly that research is being sacrificed in order to protect patient care and teaching - which means that the impact of the cuts on clinical services has been marginal (thus far). It was on the basis of this that the Government refused the recommendation of the House of Commons Select Committee on Social Services that additional funds should be allocated to the UGC to provide a measure of protection for clinical medicine.

Another cause for alarm is the drop in the number of doctors entering academic medicine at honorary senior registrar level; a decline of 13.9 per cent in all specialties from 1980 to 1984, and a corresponding decrease of 36 per cent entering general medicine.

The delegation urged Mr Hayhoe to investigate the problems arising from the two departments' divergent policies, and to consider setting up a working party to undertake a review of medical education in teaching hospitals.

The University of London has made a similar plea to the Government in the senate's annual submission to the education committee of the General Medical Council. "The time has now come when the education committee should be asked to draw to the attention of the Government the fact that unless the success of apparently endless attrition is halted it will not be possible to maintain acceptable standards of medical education in this country," says the submission.



Review of the year, 1-viii

DON'S
DIARY

MONDAY

We are busier than ever. The demand for greater efficiency means that there is more need for training, but financial cuts leave fewer resources with which to carry it out. We need extra clerical help in the office, but are unlikely to get it. Typing pools, too, seem to be a thing of the past. Meanwhile, the two of us press on with one elderly typewriter and the occasional use of a word processor from two small rooms in a shabby Georgian terrace house. Not that I'm knocking the house; we love it, and fight vigorously any attempts to move us into the smarter but more impersonal environment of Senate House.

The establishment of a study group to consider the implementation of an equal opportunities policy in the university pointing the way to a whole new set of training needs. There are some months to go before the group reports, but at the moment every other sentence begins "We shall need training in..."

Most of the 50 or so schools and institutes which make up the federal University of London have a member of staff who is responsible for training. We shall be having a meeting shortly to discuss ways of improving communications between these school training officers and the university training adviser's office; we are hopeful that improvements can be made.

I am hard at work drafting the agenda for the meeting of school training officers, trying to make it clear that we are hoping for changes without frightening the timid. I have learned quite a lot about writing committee papers over the last few years. The agenda is far the most important document; careful wording of the items is crucial. But it has to be subtle; "To approve" used too often can cause suspicion and rebellion.

TUESDAY

I have a telephone call to say that PLUTO is ready for proofreading. PLUTO is the Publication of London University Training Opportunities, a double-sided newsheet with a circulation of 2,500. It describes training courses and other activities, news from the training adviser's office, and includes a diary of events. Although it is relatively short, I always underestimate the time it will take to produce. I dash across to the office where it is being typeset to collect the draft, then force myself to sit down quietly with a cup of coffee to read through it. I know from experience that hurried proofreading can be disastrous. This time there are only a few minor typing errors so I take it straight back to the typesetter, who promises to telephone as soon as the corrections have been made.

Back to the office to finalize arrangements for tomorrow's "Introduction to the University" course. This is the first time that I have organized this course, which involves six speakers, five visits, and a lot of letter-writing. I telephone the school where the course is being held to confirm the domestic arrangements, but restrain myself from phoning the speakers to make sure that they haven't forgotten. That would seem too much like panic. I tell myself that if someone fails to turn up we can have a question and answer session instead, and I will find out how much or how little I know about the university.

WEDNESDAY

I get to the seminar room bright and early which is just as well as the furniture has been arranged "school-room style", with desks and chairs in neat rows, which is not what I wanted. Fortunately there is another early arrival, so we heave the desks to the side of the room and try to arrange the chairs informally - diffi-

cult with 24 of them in a room that is really too small, especially when the walls are lined with unwanted furniture. I check that the overhead projector and slide projector are working, then hurry along to find the kitchen and some water and glasses for the speakers. People are beginning to struggle in. They represent all categories of staff and have been working in the university for a few months. At the moment they are looking rather wooden. I hope they will liven up a little.

The first speaker arrives, to my relief (as, at appropriate times, do all the others). The visits to Senate House also go smoothly, although one group is late back and delays the course. After lunch there are two more talks, and then we all troop off to look round one of the engineering departments at University College. As Jeremy Bentham has been mentioned earlier, I ask if we can look at his mummified remains, which are locked away in a cabinet in the entrance hall. The cabinet is duly unlocked, and we gaze at the bundle of clothes, plus replica wax head that was the founder of UCL (the original head was maltreated during a student rag week several years ago, and is now kept under tight security).

Back to the office to find a message that PLUTO is ready for printing. I collect the copy, then take it along to the printing office, arriving just as the staff are about to depart. I say I'd like it done as soon as possible (deciding, belatedly, that it would have been better to have given a specific date).

THURSDAY

Spend the morning catching up on some paper work and getting ready for day two of a series of seminars for departmental secretaries. This is a fairly well established course, and my role is that of coordinator.

At lunch time the other occupants of the building join us for a glass of wine and to meet the new university training adviser. There are 13 of us, all belonging to small (two or three people) offices of the federal university. It's a nice friendly atmosphere and we co-operate very well over such things as coffee and milk and photocopying paper.

Have a meeting with the university training adviser to discuss the federal training programme and our individual responsibilities. It seems to us that there is enough work to keep six people employed, and we agree that our priority must be the development of new courses, relying on school training officers to maintain the existing programme.

FRIDAY

The course for departmental secretaries is held on one day a week over three weeks. As this is day two, I know that the room is satisfactory and that the overhead projector works. We have a lively group of 12 fairly senior secretaries. They are all keen to participate, and to discuss their work problems, and we have no trouble in drawing them out. The only difficulty comes in the session on time management in which we try to suggest that tasks can be divided into imposed and discretionary ones. They argue that although a limited number of tasks could be described as discretionary (making a telephone call, for example, as opposed to taking one) they are under such pressure that they don't have the time to plan their work. We produce a list of suggested time-saving devices, and an interesting discussion follows. Most controversial is a suggestion that few tasks can be done to perfection. I and the other course leaders are surprised at the strength of disagreement in the group.

These secretaries have an absolutely key role in the university and I don't think that they are always given the recognition they deserve. And when I hear some of their tales about the academics for whom they work I am amazed at their resilience!

After the course is over I head north for King's Cross and the 125 to Bradford, where I am to join in silver wedding celebrations. On the train, realizing that I have forgotten my book and didn't have time to buy a newspaper, I decide to while away the hours by writing a "Don's Diary" column for *The Times*.

Judith Taylor

The author is assistant university training adviser at the University of London.

letters to the editor

Peer review begs questions

Sir, - I am disturbed at the unprofessional style adopted by the anonymous reviewer of the latest *THES* peer review (*THES*, December 13).

She does not explain how the nine questions are combined or otherwise processed to produce the research and teaching ranks. Without this it is impossible to assess the importance (if any) of the numbers following each ranked institution: if these are simply the number of respondents placing that institution in its most frequently occurring category then this is an insensitive method of combining frequencies since, for instance, in the case of an apparently first-rank establishment it ignores all those who may have put it in other ranks.

She does not give any numerical information upon the proportion of those approached who did take part in the survey, nor upon the reasons for non-participation. Without this information we cannot exclude the possibility that a self-selected group of respondents is nominating itself into the higher ranks of your research and teaching tables, since we have no information on representativeness.

Finally, we do not know how up-to-date your sampling frame is. In the case of the philosophy department at this university (which ceased to exist some years ago, excellent as it was), you did in fact send your latest questionnaire to a professor who had never held a chair here and has in any case retired from academic life. I wonder if he replied and if he is in any way representative of your informants in terms of his up-to-date and direct knowledge of that which he was invited to judge.

I would agree very strongly with those who have suggested to you that there are real dangers in your continuing with this exercise. To carry it out and report on it in such a way as to remove the possibility of informed interpretation is irresponsible and adds to the danger which already exists. You should do it a lot better or preferably not at all.

Yours faithfully,
I. D. GRIFITHS,
Senior Lecturer,
Department of Psychology,
University of Surrey.

Sir, - I write to correct a substantial error of fact in your peer review article on philosophy (*THES*, December 13). The article states that the philosophy department at King's College London has fallen in size by more than half - "12 in 1979 reduced to five today".

Almost exactly the opposite is true. Since September 1984, the department has increased from five to 11. This resulted from the absorption of Bedford College philosophy department, from the appointment of myself to a vacant chair and from the award of a "new blood" post in medieval philosophy.

Since King's College London has departments of the history and philosophy of science and of the history and philosophy of religion, it in fact possesses one of the largest concentrations of philosophers in the country.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER PEACOCKE,
Professor of philosophy and head of department,
King's College London.

No laughing matter

Sir, - Paul Flather's account of Gahner and Lukes book *No Laughing Matter* (*THES*, November 22) seems to rest rather too much on an over narrow definition of a political joke, identifying it in terms of "big P" politics in which the joke teller is a member of the political establishment.

In such cases it may be true to suggest that much "political joking" is the province of a marginalized social elite, although a necessary qualification would be that such joking is often the only visible means of resistance for oppressed groups. While one can "know full well" that any definition of politics is in itself a political question, the suspension of this awareness in the pursuit of the political joke can have mystifying consequences.

Rather than highlighting jokes as "resistance" devices - "tiny revolutions" - public awareness might be better served by examining them as "control" devices predominantly operating in the interests of dominant



When the joking has to stop: George G. Werner's political view of the invasion of Czechoslovakia

social groups. "Small p" political jokes are pervasive and overwhelmingly and deeply conservative.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS POWELL,
Lecturer in sociology,
West Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education,
Swansea.

Bart's link

Sir, - The issue of December 13 contains an article by Professor Dickinson which welcomed the "opportunity for consultation" in the Government's plans to end "tenure", and the statement that academic freedom will be preserved. Is he serious?

The Government clearly intends to implement its proposals whatever representations it receives, and there is nothing it can do to preserve academic freedom apart from following the advice of an economist for whom Sir Keith Joseph expresses admiration. "In practice, this (academic freedom) means that those men who have

End of tenure

already proved themselves in the eyes of their peers, and who, for this reason, have been given senior positions in which they can determine both their own work and that of their juniors, should be given security of tenure" (F. A. Hayek).

There are times when the acceptance of *force majeure* is inevitable, when one should not compromise one's principles by collaborating with it. I would suggest to the vice chancellors that this is such a case.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM HALLETT,
University College Cardiff,
PO Box 78,
Cardiff.

Non-vocational?

Sir, - Dr Rickett (*THES*, December 13) refers to "subject areas related to wealth-creating activities". Is the implication that some subject areas are not thus related? If so, they might presumably be categorized as "non-vocational" - and hence exposed to the 58 per cent projected cuts reported in the same issue?

Before the axe begins to fall again, we really do need clarification on what these allegedly non-economically useful, non-vocational subject areas are.

Yours faithfully,
B. C. SOUTHGATE,

School of Humanities,
The Hatfield Polytechnic,
PO Box 109,
College Lane,
Hatfield,
Herts.

Taking account

Sir, - In your article "Accountancy merger plan defeated" (*THES*, November 15) you quote this institute's president, Dr John Delany, as commenting that our members "were against a merger with the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants demonstrated support for the council's view that 'now is not the right time to commit the institute to action'".

What Dr Delany in fact referred to was council's view that now is not the right time to commit the institute to a single course of action and that we should pursue the various options arising from the recent report of our strategy review group.

Yours faithfully,
T. B. DEGENHARDT,
Secretary,
The Institute of Cost
and Management Accountants,
63 Portland Place,
London W1N4AB.

Call for more computer cash after Alvey

by Jon Turney
Science Correspondent

The academic computing community is making a strong bid for increased support in a second phase of the Alvey programme for advanced information technology research, which is currently only funded until 1988.

A report to the engineering board of the Science and Engineering Research Council from a group led by Professor Eric Ash, rector of Imperial College, London, calls for £25 million a year for academic work after the original five-year programme finishes.

This is well above the £10 million a year the SERC is contributing to Alvey now - the council pays full costs of the academic portion of the programme, with £150 million coming from Government departments to pay half the cost of industrial projects over the five years.

The SERC report was put to a meeting of interested academics in the autumn, and their responses led the committee to increase its estimate of the new funds needed from £20 million to £25 million a year.

They say the money is needed because the

present programme covers some topics inadequately, and a second phase should cover some additional areas. Also the academic contribution to Alvey has been larger than originally envisaged. And the committee says that even at present levels of expenditure, "the technical capability of British industry to which academic research contributes is still falling behind that of its major competitors".

The SERC is the first of the interested parties to start framing plans for a possible "son of Alvey". Information technology companies will complete arrangements for an industrial committee to consider the shape of a second phase early in the new year. And the Department of Trade and Industry's minister for information technology, Mr Geoffrey Patten, has made it clear extended Government funding for the programme will not be automatic.

All agree that any post-Alvey programme will have to be carefully crafted to fit in with related European initiatives, including the European Commission programmes in information technology and communications, Esprit and Race, and the as yet undefined Eureka initiative for wider cooperation in high technology development.

The SERC report says arrangements for super-

vising any new programme should be revised to give an overall steering committee and the council's information engineering committee more influence on policy, and to improve liaison with Europe.

And the report recommends involving the University Grants Committee in plans for a second stage of Alvey, because of problems in some universities in coping with the demands on space made by groups attracting large Alvey grants.

The committee stresses that many of the areas under the initial programme will take 10 years to achieve their goals. This was always expected in areas like intelligent knowledge-based systems, and software engineering; "to break off after five years will fail to reap the benefits of the investment already made."

Mr Richard Ennals, the Alvey programme's co-ordinator for logic programming and research manager in computing at Imperial College, London, has resigned in protest at the Government's support of US research for a strategic defence "star wars" system. US planners are interested in Alvey-supported work at Imperial on programming languages and new computer architectures.

Nine join forces in credit system

by Felicity Jones

The largest credit transfer scheme in the country involving nine institutions is being planned for North London and the Home Counties.

The North Thames Consortium for Credit Transfer will involve City of London, Hatfield, Middlesex, North London, North-east London, Oxford and Central London Polytechnics, the Open University and Harrow College of Higher Education.

The consortium has applied to the Council for the Inner London Education Authority for extra support.

Its proposals were revealed in session at the Society for Research into Higher Education conference held at Goldsmiths' College last week.

The scheme will complement similar developments in Manchester and Newcastle and the launch of the

CNAA credit accumulation and transfer scheme in the spring.

The London consortium has also applied to the National Advisory Body for additional allocation for its students. It does not expect to get total funding for each student but proposes that where a student wishes to study outside the home institution they should be funded for a proportion of that study time.

The Open University is to run an associated student scheme, with Middlesex and North London Polytechnics of the consortium.

The consortium aims to develop criteria and procedures for the admission of students without standard entry qualifications with full recognition of prior learning experience.

Success will depend upon the resources directed towards proper staffing for guidance and counselling. A full SRHE conference report follows next week.



Bald facts: Kingston Polytechnic student Matthew Clancey, playing Beatrix Potter's *Tailor of Gloucester* at a London children's concert, has his headgear checked out by a blind member of the audience. Twenty-five Kingston students studying English and drama in the poly's education faculty took part in the eight "child education" concerts for a total audience of 20,000 children.

Poly rolls look set for record

Sacks full of last-minute applications were still arriving at the Polytechnics Central Admissions System up to Christmas, and the total looked set at least to reach the anticipated 150,000.

With candidates on average applying to more than three polytechnics, the total number of applications looks set to exceed all previous years.

Applications for Post Graduate Certificate of Education courses are still being accepted by the central registry, and will continue to be accepted as long as there are vacancies. Contrary to information in *The Times* of December 13 that December 15 was the closing date for submissions.

Rush is on for New Year boost to teacher training

by John O'Leary

Ministers are hoping to announce details of their plans for enhanced grants to entice science graduates into teacher training courses early in the New Year in time for the new awards to take effect in September.

Unless serious obstacles are uncovered in the course of a brief consultation exercise, students enrolling for Post Graduate Certificate in Education courses in mathematics, physics and craft, design and technology (CDT) will receive £1,200 on top of the normal mandatory grant.

The scheme, which will cost £2.5 million, will also apply to students

Tenure move 'is an attack on freedom'

CONFERENCE REPORT

The attack on university lecturers' tenure by the Secretary of State for Education, Sir Keith Joseph, should be seen as part of a concerted Government campaign against academic freedom, it was claimed at the AUT conference in Newcastle.

The allegation came from Mr Diana Warwick, a lecturer at the University of Newcastle, who said that the Government's attack on lecturers' conditions of service.

He was backed by Mr Richard De Fries, a lecturer at Kent University who said the reason universities had managed to cope with financial cuts was that they relied increasingly on short-term contracts.

"It's no wonder that vice chancellors are confident they can already achieve what Sir Keith Joseph wants to achieve by continuing the use of the same tactics," he said.

The union's general secretary Ms Diana Warwick told delegates that the attack on tenure was an attempt by Sir Keith to deliver a knockout blow to lecturers following the financial squeeze of recent years.

She said he was also determined to put a price tag on promotion. "If you want to move up, it will be easier to be moved out," she said.

The University Grants Committee and the Council of Vice Chancellors and Principals had already agreed that tenure was the best way of protecting academic freedom, although neither body had been effective in putting its arguments to the department of Education and Science, said Mr Warwick.

"Sir Keith has promised that academic freedom will be protected but this is yet another one of his promises which are not worth the paper they are written on."

The union's council also noted "its grave concern" over the emergence in many institutions of internal and external redeployment.



Diana Warwick: forthright

Backing for arts campaign

The Association of University Teachers' Council threw its weight behind demands for a new research council covering the arts and humanities.

It would become the principle agency for the distribution of research grants in the one major area which is principally funded from University Grants Committee and private and charitable sources.

"In this respect they are worse provided than most other areas with the possible exception of those parts of social science discredited against by the ESRC," a new policy document says.

It would take on the administration of research studentships now handled by the British Academy which should continue to receive Government grants for its independent research function.

The union also called for the research council to be put on a more secure financial footing with funding levels restored in real terms to 1973-4 levels.

Reasons for refusing an alpha rating should be explained to applicants and academic freedom for research workers upheld.

College surplus is slammed

continued from front page

report, urging the SED to complete its new survey promptly in order to deal with this "continuing problem".

The committee does not accept the SED's view that it is "pretty nearly right" in the number of graduate teachers produced. Levels of graduate employment, and the number of teachers said to be on education authority waiting lists indicate that more students are being trained than necessary, the report says.

The SED has said that staff student ratios could be changed from their present 1:8.5 to 1:10 by the end of this decade without detriment to the quality of teaching, but the committee recommends implementing this more quickly.

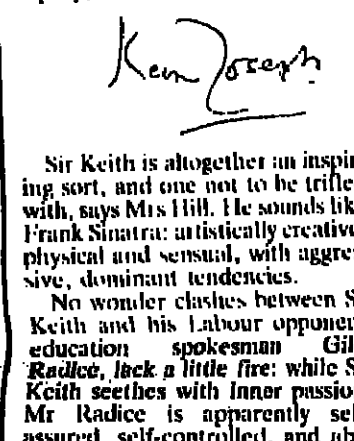
ETHICS

Reading between the lines . . .

Sir Keith Joseph is a sensual, physical man. Didn't you always suspect that, deep down? How different the course of education might be, now we know Sir Keith has sex appeal.

How do we know? His handwriting says so. Antitense has commissioned a graphologist, Mrs Barbara Hill, author of several books on the subject, to analyse anonymous extracts in the handwriting of some of higher education's leading figures. In a spirit of high-minded inquiry, of course.

Ken Joseph



Diana Warwick: forthright

Backing for arts campaign

Every handwriting sample showed its author to be intellectual (reassuring if unsurprising); none more so than that of higher education's right-wing gadfly-guru Professor Roger Scruton. Professor Scruton's writing slopes upwards, apparently indicating ambition, perseverance, optimism, and a great deal of nervous energy - but also a tendency to be impulsive and jump to conclusions.

Boy scouts throughout the country would be amazed at the analysis Mrs Hill has come up with for the secretary of the National Advisory Body, a sober, super-numerate scout leader John Boyan.

John S Bevan
Secretary

Cultured, detached, self-disciplined - that's Mr Bevan all right. But then, excitable, restless, dislikes routine, easily bored, concentration easily disturbed . . . Is this Mr Bevan's Mr Hyde?

Which brings us to Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chairman of the University Grants Committee, who is probably now making notes in his boyish, regular writing on a pile of university academic plans. So it is a good thing Sir Peter appears to be a consistent, conscientious, dependable worker.

It might not bode so well that he is also observant and objective; not emotional and could be thought insensitive.

Pennine Dyer



Edwina looks forward to a quiet life

by David Jobbins

After almost three years in Parliament and a lifetime in politics, Mrs Edwina Currie, not noted for her reticence, is coming to terms with an uncharacteristic silence.

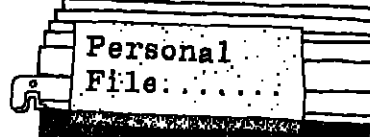
Her appointment as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, means that she must frequently bite her tongue when issues on which she has firm views are discussed.

"Last week for example I made my 45th speech since I came to the House. I shall not be able to speak as much as I have done."

One of the gains will be working closely with Sir Keith, a man she admires immensely. "He is one of the finest, nicest, wisest men in Government," she says with typical heavy emphasis. "I feel very honoured to be asked to help him."

Her enthusiasm can tend to cloud her recollections however. She wrongly remembers Sir Keith as secretary of state for social services when she chaired Birmingham's social services committee in 1979/80. In fact her mentor was firmly ensconced at industry.

A Scouser by birth and upbringing, she was educated at the Liverpool Institute for Girls, a grammar school



recruiting from across the city and now set to disappear. She won an open scholarship at St Anne's College, Oxford, to read natural sciences, following firmly in the footsteps of one Margaret Roberts a little earlier at a nearby college.

But the shared path with her future party leader soon came to a dead end. "Chemistry and I stuck together for six weeks. Towards the end of my first year I decided this was not something I wanted to do."

A year off in mid-60s America watching Mayor Lindsay's 1965 election in New York and hoping that the Water riots would never be repeated in the UK was a stimulating prelude to a return to Oxford and a switch to PPE. Given a viva for a first, she was disappointed, but went on to spend a year with Arthur Anderson intending to qualify as an accountant.

"I had decided I wanted to go into politics and needed some money to do it. What I did not plan for was to marry my boss, which I did in 1972. I did not



therefore need to go on being a chartered accountant myself," said Mrs Currie, a determined anti-feminist.

A brief and inordinately frustrating year as a civil servant in the Department of Trade and Industry attempting to measure the "brain drain" was followed by a year at the London School of Economics taking an MSc in economic history.

Two years teaching at Kingston College of Further Education found

Mrs Currie in the somewhat odd role of branch secretary of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions.

"I thoroughly enjoyed teaching further education, but my husband came home one night to say they were moving to Birmingham."

To begin with she became an University tutor, councillor, and in 1975 was elected as city councillor. Conservatives' sweep to power in the city in 1976 meant extra pay demands and the OLI had to be hustled by the low allowance meant she was effectively subsidised out of her own pocket.

Political interests had been awake while still at school, where she herself supporting the then Labour Government in classroom debate continued through the Oxford days and was then channelled into government in Birmingham.

A believer in an effective state, she has found herself at large heads with more extreme elements within her party, principally a libertarian leadership of the Federation of Conservative Students. Part of her row with FCS stemmed from advice to Conservatives to work wide campus and national structures.

Labour pledges no change on tenure

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish Correspondent

A Labour government would have no intention of changing the present basis of academic tenure, the party's education spokesman has pledged.

In an interview with Edinburgh University's director of information services, Mr Ray Footman, in the second of a series of articles syndicated through the Standing Conference of University Lecturers and Officers.

However, Mr Radice said university and polytechnic lecturers should be effective teachers, and there might well be a case for induction and refresher courses.

The Labour party was anxious to repair the damage inflicted by the Tory Government's cuts, said Mr Radice. But it was important for the higher education community to understand that it would be easier for a Labour secretary of state to make the case for more resources if colleges were widening access and expanding continuing education.

A major difficulty was that many people believed higher education was only for an elite, and it did not therefore have the political support there was for the primary and second-

dary system, said Mr Radice.

But many people within higher education tended to take their role as society for granted and did not argue their case. "The fact is that now there is very little support for the system, and it is under threat and needs to come out of their own pockets," said Mr Radice.

Mr Radice had been very easy for government to divide and rule because of the attitude of "we are going to be all right, we don't need to bother about the other universities who aren't any good anyway," Mr Radice said.

"There is too much of that in higher education, and I think in the end it will persist in it, it will lead to a disaster for you."

Mr Radice said he was amazed that there was no higher education lobby for perhaps that was indicative of the fact that there was no overall organisation representing both polytechnics and universities. He said this was "quite amazing, and it is again easy in my view for any politician to divide you."

Mr Radice condemned the University Grants Committee as secretive and unrepresentative and said the National Advisory Body for public sector higher education was far superior in its more open decision-making.

Architecture advice rejected

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has rejected recommendations from the National Advisory Body to close its school of architecture at North East London Polytechnic and keep it at Huddersfield Polytechnic.

Accepting the NAB's proposal for the allocation of new year's Advanced Further Education Pool, he was that he did not consider that the NAB had offered a satisfactory explanation for overturning the recommendation of a transitory working party on architecture. Overall budgets for NELP and Huddersfield would stand but he would reconsider the advice on architecture, he said.

Sir Keith said he would keep open for one or two months the possibility of accepting the NAB board's recommendations to close both the Huddersfield and NELP schools.

Move to boost primary teachers

The Government is proposing a 50 per cent increase in the number of students taking the one-year Scottish primary postgraduate teacher training course. The Scottish education department has released provisional figures which show a rise in the total of 200 postgraduate students in 1986.

Queen's medical school breaks the class barrier

by Carmel McQuaid

Nearly twice as many medical students at Queen's University, Belfast, come from working class backgrounds as in other British medical schools.

And while most medical students elsewhere in the UK belong in the top social bracket (39.6 per cent, compared with 29.4 per cent at Queen's) two out of five Belfast medics come from lower strata of the middle class, where the parental occupation to feature most commonly is teaching.

These are some of the findings reported by Dr Robin Harland, senior medical officer in the health service at Queen's, who surveyed the 2,000-odd medical students enrolled between 1970 and 1984, using data from the university's central computer and records of the university health service.

While doctors' children account for 21.2 per cent of UK medical students, only 11.4 per cent belong in this category at Queen's. The Irish troubles would seem to have influenced this pattern, with numbers falling from 17.4 per cent in 1972 to only 3.8 per cent in 1978. Yet the 1984 intake of 18.7 per cent is the highest in the last 14 years.

"At the height of the troubles, middle-class children were opting for places at universities elsewhere in Britain," Dr Harland writes.

The study also found that during the 14 years surveyed only two students came from the republic, while 36 were from Great Britain, 46 from Malaysia, 19 from the US or Canada, 18 from mainland Europe, usually Norway, and 59 from the rest of the world. Only 82 or 4 per cent of the students had a struggle to keep up academically with their young colleagues.

More and more clever children are choosing a medical career. Nearly 30 per cent have at least three A grades at A level and some have four or five. They also have a much lower failure rate than in other faculties. But as entry standards have gone up, obses-

sional compulsive neuroses have got more frequent. But only a few present a chronic problem.

While every student who reaches the final MB eventually graduates, the 10 per cent failure rate among first-time sitters is viewed with concern. "It is certainly a puzzle as to why there is a continuing failure rate when one considers the constantly rising academic abilities of the intakes," Dr Harland says.

Foreign students are most at risk, with 16.5 per cent having to repeat, compared with 5.7 per cent Ulster students and none from Great Britain.

"It is certain that this is not a question of colour bar, although language difficulties may be part of the answer, but the American and Canadian students suffer the same difficulty," the survey states.

Unlike the sex ratio in British medical schools which is now 50-50, male students predominate in Queen's faculty, with a 65-35 proportion.

The survey supports A level performance as the best method of student selection since the present high grades act also as a filter against the trail and the weak.

Strong arguments are advanced against pre-entry interviews. "In a provincial area like Ulster, where so many things are arranged by personal contact, the interviewer may well be exposed to hidden pressures from outside sources," the survey claims.

"In some cases, the interviewer may be open to bias. It is quite possible to base one's decisions on a series of stereotypes, which match one's own preconceptions of the ideal candidate. The interviewer may reject those who should accept, while accepting those who are actually unfit."

The study, which set out to quantify how many medical students, though passing all their exams, were by reason of irresponsibility or irrational behaviour unfit for clinical practice, put the incidence at one per thousand, or, in the case of Queen's, one every 10 years.

Government picks an outsider for MSC

The Government has rejected the unanimous advice of education groups in appointing its one commissioner to speak for the education system on the Manpower Services Commission.

The new education commissioner is Mr Ken Durrands, rector of Huddersfield Polytechnic. Mr Durrands was not the nominee of any of the three organizations consulted on the education appointment: the college principals' association, the association of colleges in further and higher education, and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.

"The three organizations put forward various names, of which one at least," Mr Clive Brail, principal of Swindon College - was on all three lists. According to a NAFHE spokesman, all the other eight MSC commissioners were nominated by their supporting bodies - the Confederation of British Industry, the Trades Union Congress and the local authority bodies.

"Once again the serious and representative views of the education service have been set aside by Government," he said. "This will mean that Mr Durrands will have to work all the harder to establish his authority relative to the other commissioners and to develop relationships with the groups he is to represent."

Mr David Bradshaw, secretary of ACFHE and principal of Doncaster Institute of Higher Education, said that the association had great respect for Mr Durrands as someone who had a background in non-advanced further education.

"But because the growth of NAFE and in particular the MSC and the youth training system have been so rapid over the last five years or so, it does mean anyone who comes in from outside the sector has an enormous amount of learning to do," he said.

The other commissioners appointed or reappointed were: Mr Michael Bett, Mr Michael Bury, Mr John Peake (employers); Mr Ken Graham, Mr Roy Grantham, Mr Ron Todd (TUC); Mr John Pearman, Mrs Barbara Vaughan (local authorities).

Fears for institutes

A question mark has been raised over the future of London University's senate institutes, which are currently under review by a university working group.

The group was formed in the summer, under the chairmanship of Professor Charles Cowan, director of the School of Oriental and African Studies to look at the role played by the 13 institutes.

Now it looks set to recommend to the university's finance committee that five of them - Germanic studies, Latin American studies, Commonwealth studies, United States studies and the British institute in Paris - should be the subject of a review by the

university's schools in conjunction with the British Academy.

The four research institutes - advanced legal studies, classical studies, historical research and the Warburg Institute - should continue to be funded at a realistic level, but should look for opportunities to rationalize. Extra money may be demanded from the appropriate college departments to help the institutes.

The Institute of Archaeology, the Courtauld Institute and the new SOAS/School of Slavonic and East European Studies institution should all be put along present lines, the committee will recommend.



Knees-up: the vice chancellor of Sheffield University, Professor Geoffrey Sims, works out in the university's new health and fitness unit, urged on by ex-Liverpool and England footballer Emyln Hughes and former 10,000 metres world record holder and chairman of the International Amateur Athletic Club, David Bedford.

War declared on bogus degrees

by Carolyn Dempster

The battle against the trade in bogus diplomas and degrees has been taken up at top European decision-making level in a bid to combat the fraud.

The European parliament passed a resolution underlining to tackle the "growth industry" in bogus certificates and qualifications in November, and as a result of independent representations from American, English and German educationists, the Council of Europe plans to update and republish its blacklist of diploma mills in 1986.

Both initiatives are regarded by British educationists as important steps towards heightening awareness on the Continent of the proliferation of bogus qualifications and degree mills in recent years.

The issue was introduced to the European parliament by Euro-MP and vice president of the Association of Business Executives, Mr John Tomlinson during a debate on mutual recognition of valid qualifications.

He argued that with the increase in mutual recognition of valid qualifications within the EEC, trans-frontier opportunities for diploma mill operators would widen unless precautionary steps were taken. The Fontaine report proposals on mutual recognition were inadequate in this regard he charged, and the commission "should now get its finger out and attack the fraudulent trade," he told parliament.

Mr Tomlinson confirmed that the commission's consumer protection committee was already studying evidence of the fraudulent trade compiled by British educationist Lyndon Jones and Inspector Bob Moffat of Scotland Yard's Fraud Squad. However, adoption of the resolution calling for action by the Euro-parliament would, he hoped, spur the commission to take action.

On the UK front renewed pressure is being placed on the Department of Education and Science to consider legislation against the problem this session.

East Anglia's next v-c

Professor Michael Thompson, vice chancellor of the University of East Anglia, is to be the next vice chancellor and principal of Birmingham University. He will succeed Professor Edward Marsland in January 1987.

Professor Thompson, who is also in charge of the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals' campaign to improve the public image of universities, has been vice-chancellor of UEA since 1980.

Campaign launched to save colleges

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish Correspondent

Scottish education college staff are launching a campaign against the closure of three of their seven colleges, the Scottish Education Advisory Council.

Mr George Livingstone, chairman of the Association of Lecturers in Colleges of Education in Scotland, says the three-month consultation period on the report will be used to expose its flaws and to demonstrate that the closure proposals are unsupported.

STEAC has proposed the closures because of over-capacity in the colleges, but ALCES says the Scottish Education Department admitted last summer to the House of Commons public accounts committee that it had no clear way of measuring capacity.

ALCES says it suspects STEAC has been using a "simplistic bottoms-up approach" which is inappropriate to the education college sector.

STEAC's maximum student intake figure of 5,000 is false, ALCES claims, and by the council's own statistics should be 7,070, not including 25,000 teachers on short-term in service courses.

ALCES points out that the report recognizes the quality of current in-service education, and stresses the need to meet increased demand through local colleges. This would be jeopardized if three colleges were

axed. The Association of University Teachers (Scotland) has welcomed the report as thoughtful and positive, clearly warning Government that priority should be given to widening access rather than making short-term savings by reducing higher education opportunities.

It is giving a clear message to Scottish families that higher education should not be seen as a middle-class privilege, and is urging universities and colleges to do more to encourage students with a wider range of qualifications, and mature students.

"The whole document is a very refreshing change from the Government's Green Paper, and is obviously written by people who care about higher education in Scotland," said Dr Sandy Young, the AUT's Scottish chairman.

But the association is unhappy about the report's recommendation that the Scottish universities should come under a single higher education planning and funding body under the Secretary of State for Scotland.

"There is an assumption that all you need to do is rush from Secretary of State for Education and Science, who is apparently determined to destroy higher education, to the Scottish Secretary, and all will be well," said AUT (S) vice president Professor Bill Wallace. "But he's been singularly unable to protect either Scottish industry or Scottish ratepayers."

Cash snag for adult project

Financial restrictions are preventing the rapid growth of a special adult learning programme in Bedfordshire, according to a report from HM Inspector.

Currently, the special programme for adults with various learning difficulties provided in South Bedfordshire is offering a "very good service," the report says.

But present constraints are creating a situation in which teachers and administrators are fully stretched, while it is acknowledged there are many unmet needs in the area, particularly among ethnic minority groups.

Commending much of the provision offered by the special programme, the report suggests some courses, such as a luncheon club for the elderly, could be handed over to colleges, freeing more resources for basic education purposes.

The report urges the creation of a management or advisory body to supervise the programme. It also calls for an overhaul of the present system of recruiting potential tutors, and for a review of present in-service training arrangements for tutors.

Monitoring approved

Proposals for a new system of monitoring and approving social work training courses have been endorsed in principle by the profession's central training body.

Under the new plans, regular evaluations will take place within institutions and on training schemes. At present external reviews are conducted by a panel appointed by the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work.

The council is anxious that more emphasis is given to the validation of practical training. Until now, it says, examination of these schemes has been less well developed than the evaluation of academic training.

In sanctioning the new system, the council will expect teaching staff to evaluate courses regularly, and provide information on an annual basis, with detailed reports to be supplied every five years.

The council also wants employing agencies to play a greater role in the validation process. It is seeking representation for employers on assessment boards at management level.

Favourable review for SERC biotech

by John Turney
Science Correspondent

A Science and Engineering Research Council review group has given the council's four-year-old biotechnology directorate a clean bill of health. But the group recommends the SERC should try harder to co-operate with the other research councils in developing biotechnology.

The review, set up earlier this year to assess the effectiveness of the directorate's £2 million a year spend-

ing, delivered a report to last week's council meeting.

The review group, chaired by Dr Charles Reece, research director of ICI and a council member, says the directorate's work should continue, with baseline funding at the same level. And it proposes the directorate should receive a share of any extra funds the council is granted for work in priority areas such as protein engineering.

The group was especially impressed by the directorate's success in attract-

ing additional industrial support for its programmes - amounting to £2.5 million on top of the £6.5 million council funds spent so far.

The review stresses the need for liaison with other councils in the directorate's future work. The group included Sir Ralph Riley, former secretary of the Agricultural and Food Research Council and Dr Dai Rees, director of the Medical Research Council's National Institute for Medical Research, which both have strong interests in the area.

PGCE students show higher jobs success rate

Postgraduate Certificate of Education students who qualified this year have had a higher success rate in securing posts in UK colleges and schools than their 1983 and 1984 counterparts, in spite of falling rolls, the continuing recession and teachers' dispute.

There has also been a drop in real and percentage terms in the number of PGCE students either unemployed or still seeking a post as at mid-October. The annual employment survey carried out by the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers has revealed.

The 32 UK university departments offering initial teacher training courses reflects a high completion rate of 91.7 per cent, with a total of 3,432 teachers

obtaining school or college positions by October this year. The success of PGCE students in finding posts is markedly higher than the BED Honours, BA/BSc and BEd groups and at 74.6 per cent is slightly better than the 73.8 per cent who found posts last year. The situation has been described as "satisfactory" by UCET academic secretary Professor J. G. Lawrence, who none the less expresses concern in the report that a high proportion of first appointments are temporary.

Only 4.2 per cent of the total of 4,223 PGCE students who qualified were unemployed or still looking for posts in October - the lowest the figure has been in five years and an encouraging sign for future prospects for PGCE

students. Subjects in which unemployment is highest are history, religious education, craft design, art, liberal studies and geology - a continuation of the 1984 trend.

BEd Honours students fared marginally worse than in 1984 with 171 of the 258 students who completed their posts. However, a statistical comparison is unreliable because of the virtual disappearance of the BEd Ordinary degree course over the past year.

The numbers of BA, BSc, BEd and certificate students securing posts survey notes a distinct drop in those going into teaching.

Patrick Nuttgens

150

French set goal for doubling score of students

from David Dickson

PARIS The French minister for national education, M. Jean-Pierre Chevènement, has asked for a study to be carried out of the measures that would need to be taken to double the intake of students into various institutions of higher education, particularly those concentrating on scientific and technological subjects, over the next 10 years.

This follows the minister's announcement that one of the principal goals of his recent decision to reorganize the lycée (upper secondary school) curriculum is to raise the number of school students taking the baccalauréat examination from the current level of 37 per cent to 80 per cent by the end of the century.

Since all those who pass the baccalauréat are, in principle, eligible to take up a university place, a massive expansion of the higher education system would be needed to accommodate the demand that could arise from the successful achievement of the minister's goal.



M. Chevènement

With this in mind, he has asked Mme Josiane Serres, director of the *École normale supérieure* in Seville, to study the ways to increase the number of students in the *grandes écoles*, whether supported by the ministry of national education or on another government department, so that these can be doubled in 10 years.

Mme Serres has also been asked to look at what changes in entry requirements should be made by these institutions in order to encourage school children away from an excessive concentration on mathematics in the baccalauréat, currently considered to provide the best chance for a place in the more prestigious establishments.

M. Chevènement's requests are considered in Paris to be slightly unrealistic, not merely because the socialist government is unlikely to remain in power after next March's elections, but also because of the massive expansion in lycée facilities that would be required to meet the increased student numbers that he has put forward.

It is estimated, for example, that 400 new lycées would have to be built in

posts were created this year, the government is already planning that this number will drop to 1,800 in 1986. Furthermore, although the number of school students taking the baccalauréat is increasing steadily, there would have to be a marked acceleration in the current trends to meet M. Chevènement's targets. Between 1970 and 1985, for example, the number of successful candidates increased by 50 per cent, from 167,000 to 250,000 a year, but the rate of increase was already considerably slower than over the previous decade.

M. Chevènement has now said that he wants to increase this to 450,000 by the year 2000, with many of the additional students taking new baccalauréats in technical and professional subjects. And he has answered the scepticism of his critics by expressing the hope that his ambitious goals will be reached by a new burst in demand for education by both school students and their parents, as well as a new recognition by the state of the value of education to the economy.

● The government has announced that

the number of students attending French universities has increased 12.5 per cent - from 875,300 to 980,000 - between 1980/81, the last year of previous administration, and the current academic year.

According to a statement passed by the minister of state for universities, M. Roger-Gérard Schwartz, the council of ministers, the number of students receiving grants has risen by 32 per cent over the period 1981-1985, and the average value of grants has risen by 56 per cent.

Eight new university technology institutes have been created this year, bringing to a total of 24 the number of such institutes in the country. In the past four years in line with government's declared commitment to boost scientific and technical education, M. Schwartz said, about 107,000 first-year students - about the total intake of the country - were taking these professionally-oriented courses. They have been introduced by many universities in line with the requirements of the higher education law passed at the beginning of last year.

Unlike his predecessor, Schmidt will take over a university with healthy finances. Chevènement's legacy has been a lion without a mane.

Yale names its new president

Yale University has a new president. He is Benno C. Schmidt, Jr. 43, who is currently head of the law school at Columbia University. Schmidt, who succeeded outgoing Yale president Angelo Bartlett Giannetti next July, will become only the twentieth man to hold the position in the 284-year history of the university.

He is himself a Yale alumnus, having graduated from Yale college in 1963 and from Yale law school in 1966.

After which he went on to serve as

school last year, and has written extensively on constitutional law, freedom of the press and first amendment issues.

In a selection process which has been going on since last April, when Schmidt was named by the search committee headed by former Secretary of State Cyrus C. Vance, he was able to secure the job without the publicity and surrounding controversy that has surrounded Giannetti's appointment.

Giannetti, who had been in the post for six months, had been offered the job and turned it down.

Unlike his predecessor, Schmidt will take over a university with healthy finances. Chevènement's legacy has been a lion without a mane.

Richard Yelland, in his last round-the-world report, reaches Australia

After eight months in Asia, coming to Australia was almost - but not quite - like coming home. Much is familiar: pelican crossings, McDonalds hamburgers, Yes Minister, but on closer inspection there are important differences. For most Australians home is a city, that is, a bungalow with a garden in the suburbs.

Even though the cities, to one accustomed to London or New York, hardly seem crowded, they are there to be got away from - at Christmas, at weekends, wherever there is a day free. Beyond the city is the bush, and then the outback. Its vastness is a constant reminder that this is a young, pioneering society.

There is a strong national consciousness - boosted by the winning of the America's Cup, tarnished by failure to regain the Ashes, championed by Australian tycoons' assault on British and American business, and to be celebrated in the 1988 Bicentennial.

Imaginative museums such as Adelaide's Constitutional Museum and Sydney's Hyde Park Barracks record the social and political history of colonial times. Considerable efforts are made to ensure that the experi-

ences of 200 years are not lost to Australians or their visitors. Conservation parks seek to halt the damage that has been done to native flora and fauna, and to educate the public to look after what remains. There is an overtly didactic element in these galleries, museums and parks which set out to stimulate - and sometimes provoke - children and adults.

In formal education, as in many other fields, Australia has built on an English system, although it has evolved in its own way. As in England adult and continuing education is the subject of growing interest, not to say concern, and the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission - the national body responsible for further and higher education - is in the course of a major review.

The draft report, distributed for comment, gives a picture of a decentralized and varied provision in which state authorities, educational institutions and community groups all play a part. It estimates that 500,000 people a year are involved in adult education provided by the three tertiary sectors - universities, colleges of advanced education and

technical and further education (TAFE) colleges - the Workers' Educational Association and community-based organizations.

The work of the last group is singled out as a growing area, and one which is particularly valuable in reaching disadvantaged groups. There is a strong plea too for greater use of, and integration with, the public library service in the education of adults.

At the other end of the scale providers are the universities. Australia has traditionally had a high level of participation by adults in degree courses on a part-time or residential basis. In a number of places adults are, for a fee, able to "audit" lectures on undergraduate courses - sitting in, but not going to take examinations.

As at home the professional body provide some courses for their members but there is a growing recognition of the potential role of educational institutions. So far, it was able to ascertain only one of the Australian Society of Accountants - requires its members to update themselves, and would draw the status of those who do not.

One noteworthy emphasis of the university continuing education is on discussion of social and political issues of public concern; for example through national conferences as put on by Australian National University in Canberra.

The CTEC's draft report is far from sanguine about the present position however. "One has a clear impression, often supported by the admissions of responsible officers in institutions, that the higher education sector as a whole has reduced its involvement in recent years, especially in adult education. Some institutions have disbanded the units administering the provision, others have reduced staff numbers and funding. All appear to see adult continuing education as a marginal activity, expendable in a time of financial stringency."

In the wake of the Christmas binge Jon Turney reports on the state of food research in this country

From what we are about to consume, may the Lord protect us. This silent prayer from the 1980s Christmas table is a sign the simple pleasures of stuffing yourself silly are getting more complicated. Obesity, cancer, high blood pressure and heart disease are all spectres at the feast. There is no lack of advice on how to banish them - with less salt, more fibre, fish instead of meat, fruit instead of cakes, less alcohol, fewer additives. But this is the stuff of new year resolutions, not festive good cheer.

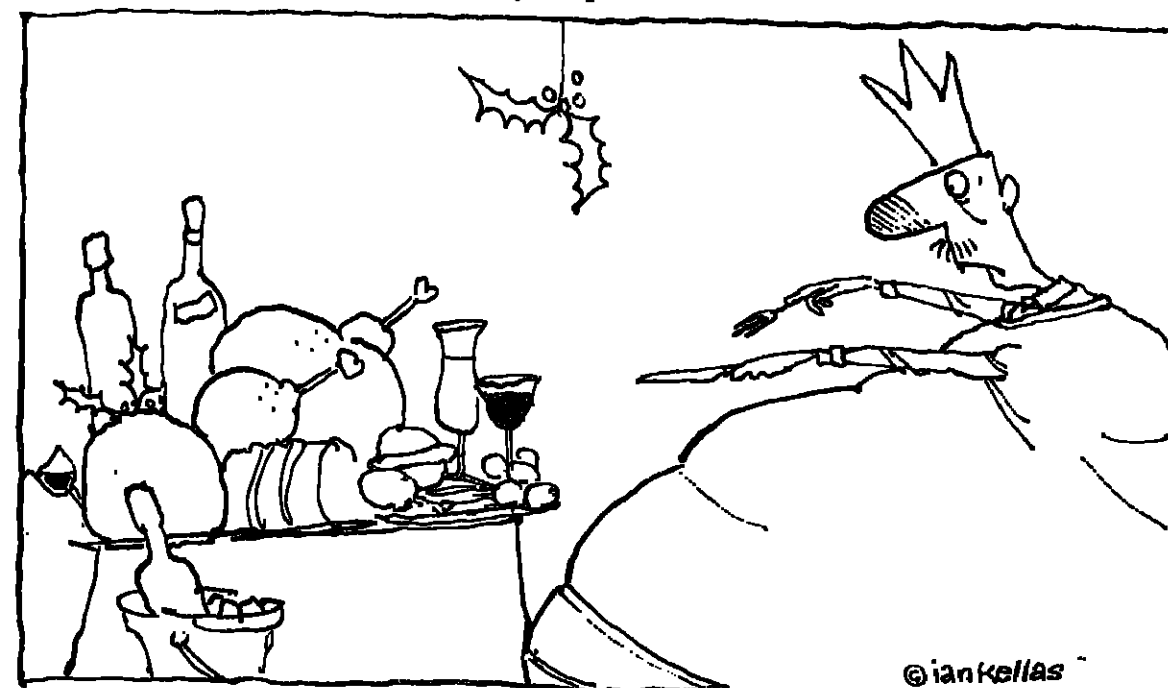
Yet if this shows a conflict between what we are told is good for us and what we like, the diet messages are getting through. Polls show nearly a third of the British population have cut down their meat-eating in the last few years. Eggs and milk are firmly established in many minds as high-cholesterol nasties. Books on healthy eating are keeping many a publisher afloat.

All this affects an industry which employs more than any other in the country, in the chain from the farm gate to the supermarket shelf or the take-away counter. And as the size of the food market is fixed by the capacity of the human stomach, there is fierce competition to profit from these changes in preference, or minimize losses.

As a result, there is a welter of conflicting information aimed at the consumer, and at regulators, legislators, food writers and medical journalists. Advice on sensible eating from official bodies like the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy goes along with thinly disguised propaganda from organizations with names like the Salt Data Centre, the Butter Information Council, the Eggs Authority, the Coronary Prevention Group, or the Flora Project for Heart Disease Prevention.

All this is helping make food policy one of the more prominent political issues of the late 1980s. But the academic contribution to the debate in Britain is remarkably small.

Despite its original links with the radically inclined GLC administration, Dr Lang describes the Food Commission as a research and education unit and not a polemical organization - more think tank than pressure group. And he wants to try to recapture the lost British tradition of food policy research pioneered before the last war



© Ian Kellas

Hungry for a policy

through a trust to ensure it a five-year life beyond the GLC's demise in 1986, is run by Dr Tim Lang, formerly one of the few academics working on food policy. It was an interest few shared when he was lecturing in the catering faculty at Manchester Polytechnic.

In Lang's view, food is a classic example of the way academic boundaries are too tightly drawn. Understanding what he calls the food system draws on studies from anthropology and psychology to economics and biochemistry. But although there is work on pieces of the jigsaw in agricultural institutes, few are interested in studying how they fit together. General food policy research is almost non-existent.

There is little serious study of wider issues of policy. In fact, the liveliest centre for discussion of food issues is outside the higher education sector, at the London Food Commission set up earlier this year with funds from the Greater London Council.

The commission, which is funded

by the likes of Beveridge, Titmuss and Boyd Orr.

These luminaries of social policy in the UK are now little remembered for their concern with food, and the rationing dictated by wartime shortages was the last time Britain had an explicit food policy. As incomes and food supplies both rose in the 1950s and 1960s food seemed to take care of itself.

But Lang is keen to stress that the new-found concern with food is not just a product of the problems of over-consumption induced by affluence. A survey he carried out with colleagues in the Food Commission among people on low incomes, and a widespread absence of enough cash to do anything about it.

These findings were less surprising than the amount of media attention this rather modest exercise commanded throughout 1985. The response showed how little is known about the subject, as well as the limitations of health advice based on poor information.

Other academics working in the field also report a growing interest in their research. Dr Verner Wheelock, who has recently established a food policy research group at Bradford University - a faculty transferred to the biomedical faculty from the university's sailing school of science and society - says the upheaval in the food system is building up interest in a whole range of food and food-related issues.

He sees the increases in farming productivity, making the UK almost self-sufficient in many foodstuffs, and the collapse of supermarket chains which are putting more power in the hands of the consumers.

It has also made it a little easier to attract research funds. Dr Wheelock still thinks it is highly unlikely the Agricultural and Food Research Council would back his group's work, but he does get cash from the joint committee of the Economic and Social Science and Engineering Research

Council, the Leverhulme Trust, the Milk Marketing Board and the Meat and Livestock Commission.

He also finds it useful to put out briefing papers for the media: "to publish only in the academic literature in this field is a dead loss". His unit's outlets in the trade press include *Farmer's Weekly*, where articles on the implications of changing consumer habits give the primary producers food for thought. Surveys by the Bradford researchers show meat, milk and dairy products firmly established in the public mind as sources of fat.

They also show the power of advertising to foster simple views of complex problems, and even leave false misleading impressions. Nearly two thirds of the respondents in the Bradford survey identified butter as a source of fat, compared with only 20 per cent for margarine. Indeed, 40 per cent believed margarine has less fat than butter, although the statutory minimum is the same for both. People have grasped that there is a difference between butter and margarine without getting any clear idea what it is.

A separate issue in food policy - which does not call on the ability to distinguish between high and low density lipoprotein or to diagnose hypercholesterolaemia - is the properties of the myriad preservatives, stabilizers, emulsifiers, flavour enhancers, texture improvers, and colouring agents now found in processed food. This has been an interest of Dr Eric Millstone at Sussex University for six years now.

Millstone says the tempo of the debate about safety of additives is increasing rapidly, and this is likely to continue with the launch earlier this month of a new pressure group seeking changes in the law on additives. The Food Additives Campaign Team is co-ordinating efforts to secure tighter control of chemicals in food, and has attracted support from MPs of all the main parties as well as organizations as varied as the Friends of the Earth and the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

This sort of campaign may also come to benefit academics, as the industry is likely to sponsor more university work on regulation and toxicology as a counter to public efforts to increase the public's distaste for additives. None too soon, according to Millstone. "The one thing we all agree on in the policy debate is that more work is needed."

Portrait of the art rector as a businessman

Charm, assurance and charisma itself, Jocelyn Stevens swept into the senior common room at the Royal College of Art looking more like a captain of industry than the rector of Britain's world-renowned post-graduate art and design college.

Immaculately turned out in a dapper pinstripe suit the ex-managing director of Express Newspapers may have looked slightly out of place among the painters, architects and designers but he clearly felt completely at home. A word here, a joke there - Stevens was enjoying himself hugely.

He was here for a working lunch to elaborate his iconoclastic views on what universities and institutions of higher education need to do to survive in an increasingly hostile economic climate.

In the spring, after taking part in a Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals investigation of university public relations, Stevens called for the creation of an "A-team" of vice chancellors trained to promote the virtues of higher education on television and in the press.

The CVCP itself should develop its role as an intelligence centre, gathering and disseminating information to keep universities abreast of what's going on and forewarned of potentially damaging developments, he recommended, and a universities parliamentary group might also be created to meet regularly and commission public opinion polls.

The report seems to have been received with about as much enthusiasm as a cup of cold tea. "It won't happen in general," Stevens says, although some seeds may have been sown for change in the future.

He says: "I was asked what was the point of it all? To save your finances, I said. You cannot simply

spend public money on the level that universities do without accounting for it - that means letting the public in."

The problem, Stevens believes, is that education at all levels in Britain is essentially elitist and snobbish. Academics in universities and teachers in schools think of themselves as apart from the real world. Industrialists are regarded as lesser intelligences.

"There's an intellectual snobbishness. An insular attitude. It is the attitude of the pterodactyl and look what happened to them. It led to extinction."

First of all, he says, universities and tertiary colleges have got to lobby for public support and understanding - actively work to dispel ignorance and prejudice about what happens in higher education.

Individual institutions should appoint communications specialists with senior grade status. (When he arrived at the RCA he found that the registrar's secretary had been deputized to deal with, in the sense of discouraging, press inquiries.)

A senior press officer has now been appointed, there is a regular newsletter, a news noticeboard has been erected, and a four-minute video of the college's work has been made to show to visitors.

Universities should also make more effort to get involved in their local communities, via open days for

example, and individuals should start thinking about the overall good of their colleges rather than pursuing selfish sectional interests.

Second, relations with the providers of public funds, the Government, should be cultivated: ministers should be seen by civil servants invited to lunch; MPs fostered; and questions about higher education placed with friendly MPs in the House.

"Defence and health lobby like hell," he says. "The cake is of a given size. If you don't fight for it you lose."

Third, industrialists need to be wooed and acquainted with the institution's achievements. In the RCA once a year each of the college's 17 departments invites commercial leaders in industries most closely related to the relevant discipline to meet the students and staff at a drinks party.

On November 5, 79 industrial leaders, chairmen or their equivalents, were invited to breakfast at the RCA to hear about the college's activities and its plans for the future.

In the first three months of this year the RCA has attracted more than 21 million from industry in the form of bursaries, lectureships and prizes. Last year the figure was £100,000.

For years the sector has been fragmented and lacking a unified voice. As a result it has been possible to pick off institutions separately.

When the DES proposed to cut the RCA, he says he even heard a lot of people saying that this would be a damn good idea.

The college had a reputation for student rebellion. It lacked power and nobody really appreciated that it had a contribution to make to society.

Today, under Stevens' energetic leadership, that image is changing. Apart from radically restructuring the college's academic organization, reducing all master's degree courses from three to two years, and simplifying and democratizing the college's governance, he has also made substantial economies in the institution's administration costs.

"The Government is now rightfully pleased with us," he says. "We are the only institution of higher education which has not been cut."

"One of the services we can perform for the sector is to lead by example. I believe in a couple of years this place will be funded in a totally different way, probably equal Government funding with private funding. Then that will show everyone in art and design what can be done."

Death sentence on students guilty of poly bomb blast

Two Afghan students have been sentenced to death and two more received long terms of imprisonment for two bomb incidents in Kabul earlier this month. The bombs were planted at Kabul Polytechnic on December 8 and at Kabul Airport the following day.

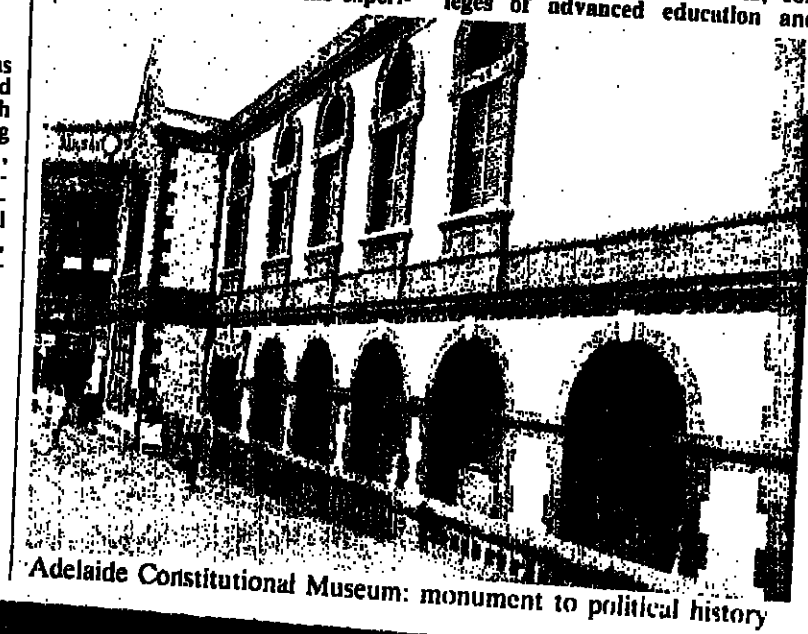
There is some discrepancy about the casualty toll from the incidents. Kabul radio reported nine killed and 54 injured at the airport and 21 injured at the polytechnic.

The Soviet army newspaper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, however, put the airport figures at six killed and some 20 injured, noting that most of them were soldiers from the Afghan government forces, who had just been discharged to the reserve.

The four students were brought to trial within two days of the second incident, suggesting that the police may have had an informer within the Jamiat-e Islami anti-communist underground movement, to which all

four allegedly confessed belonging. Kabul radio named the four as Kamaluddin, son of Abdul Ali, and Abdorauof, son of Abdul Qodous, both third-year students in teacher-training courses, both sentenced to death, Nasir Ahmad, son of Allah Mohammad, a third-year law student, sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment and Abdul Wali, son of Mohammad Nabi, a fourth-year medical student, sentenced to 19 years imprisonment.

The trial, on December 10 and 11, coincided with the celebration of International Human Rights Day. In a message to the United Nations secretary general, the Afghan party leader, Babraq Karmal, spoke of terrorists who "embark on murder and assassination in the most savage manner" and suggesting that they had the support of "reactionary and imperialist foreign countries, including Afghanistan's own neighbours."



Adelaide Constitutional Museum: monument to political history

Crying wolf in a very loud voice

As shock tactics go, you cannot do much better in higher education terms than to threaten to close eight polytechnics in a single year. But it is a high-risk strategy: impact is guaranteed, but you do run the risk of not being believed.

John O'Leary assesses the NAB's shock planning exercise tactics

The National Advisory Body seems to have had the best of both worlds. Its leaked analysis of the prospects for next year's planning exercise made a splash in the daily press, but it could legitimately claim not to be screaming since it had never actually threatened to carry out the closure programme.

What the paper by Mr John Bevan, the NAB secretary, was doing was to set out in as graphic a way as possible the scale of the cuts required to satisfy both the Government's provisions and the NAB's own plans. It was intended for internal consumption, but it is fair to assume that those at Metropolis House were neither surprised nor disappointed that it achieved widespread circulation.

The NAB committee's decision not to cut intakes for 1989/90 despite an estimated £13 million shortfall in the advanced further education pool attracted criticism inside and outside the body's membership. There was a need to convince their own constituency and the Department of Education and Science both of a determination to hold the line next year and of the serious consequences of doing so.

Mr Bevan's paper may not have been more than a list of promises of more money from Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, but it appears to have had the desired effect on the department's representatives on the NAB as well as in the polytechnics and colleges. The DES members have been at pains to persuade the NAB not to rush into drastic measures and Sir Keith, at his meeting with the committee, stressed that there was "everything to play for" on the size of the pool for 1987/88.

Although at that meeting there was some dispute over the accuracy of the NAB's claim to be £15 million short of the amount needed to maintain funding levels, there has been little serious challenge to Mr Bevan's arithmetic. Sir Keith concentrated his attack on the local authorities' own responsibility for the deficit through their settlement with polytechnic and college lecturers, while his officials have insisted that the projected shortfall for 1987/88 is artificially inflated by an unrealistic aim to claw back the £15 million.

Mr Bevan's paper does not pretend to be a totally realistic picture of the prospects for 1987/88: much of the projection has to be based on assumptions which inevitably will turn out to be wide of the mark in some respects. Work is already in progress to refine some of the calculations, but it may be found eventually to have erred on the side of caution because of a determination not to be accused of exaggerating the scale of the crisis.

The paper starts from the proposition that the £15 million shortfall for 1986/87, added to indicative figures contained in this year's Expenditure White Paper, double the cuts necessary to restore current funding levels. When the planning exercise was launched in March, it was expected that the pool for 1987/88 would be 2.3 per cent below the amount needed to fund the same number of students on the same unit of resource. Since the announcement of an inadequate pool for 1986/87, this figure has risen to 5.6 per cent.

This calculation assumes that almost £13 million added to next year's local authority and voluntary college budgets is carried forward in the following year, but no more money is added. Inflation is taken to be running at 3.4 per cent (the Government's own calculation) and fee levels are assumed to rise by this amount.

With the total budget for public sector higher education then assumed to be almost £707 million, the projected shortfall becomes more than £42 million in 1987/88. Because different subjects are funded at different levels, the size of the reduction in student places depends on the NAB's approach. The current intention is to protect science, technology, business subjects and other vocational disciplines, leaving the remainder to take the full force of any cuts. It is also the body's policy to protect part-time and non-degree work at the expense of full-time and degree courses.

The consequences of sticking to that approach would appear to be so unthinkable by the humanities and other unprotected programme areas that it will surely have to be abandoned. Unprotected subjects would be cut by 58 per cent in order to reduce intakes by 18,000 overall. The NAB chairman's study group has already decided not only to consider spreading the cuts more widely but even to examine the effects of reversing the policy completely, taking in more students on unprotected programmes, which are generally cheaper to run.

As for the consequences for institutions, that, too, will depend on the NAB's strategy. The vivid illustration of eight polytechnics or 13 colleges closing is not seriously put forward as a likely option: it is one extreme of a possible policy of concentration. If the NAB decided to advise Sir Keith to concentrate all the cuts in a small number of institutions, this is the number which would have to close, allowing for the likelihood that the largest polytechnics would not be the chosen victims. In reality, of course, such a policy will not be pursued.

The NAB does not have an institutional policy at present but the secretary has been asked to produce papers which will lead to one being formulated in the new year. Mr Bevan's paper says that the NAB committee would not support a general principle of concentration, but it stresses the difficulty of identifying between 600 and 900 course closures without some guiding criteria.

Reduction in access 1987/88

	No protection 12.26% reduction in all programmes	Priority programmes protected 58.37% cut in remainder
First-year	32,413	18,460
All years	34,430	34,430
Engineering	14,443	1,366
Technology	3,286	1,580
Construction	7,774	8,880
Science	4,817	13,187
Environmental science	5,554	5,490
Agriculture	283	2,635
Health	4,896	300
Mathematics	6,756	5,680
Business/management	24,478	7,700
Catering	1,808	27,850
Professional/vocational	3,010	2,080
Social and administrative	9,450	1,426
Languages	1,202	4,484
Humanities	4,238	2,011
Art	5,127	1,186
Design	1,141	5,868
Performing arts	11,143	14,500
Initial teacher training	5,791	3,141
In-service training		12,700
Unprotected programmes in italics.		28,850

Everyday story of country teaching

Over a hundred years ago Cambridge University was the first university to take its lectures off the campus and into the community. Many universities followed suit through their extramural faculties and the sense of mission still persists.

Large swathes of the country remain remote and universities like Leicester and Nottingham still take a pride in taking their expertise to those rural parts of the country that otherwise would have been inaccessible.

From its university centre in Northampton, a former orphanage, the University of Leicester's department of adult education runs a full programme. Daytime enrolments flourish while evening concerts and events always attract substantial audiences.

The department has just started certificate courses in local history and ecology, both widely popular, and has also begun new courses in counselling, common with other rural communities, subjects which relate closely to the locality and in high demand but there is also a strong call for literature and politics.

There is a thriving riparian university, Workers' Educational Association and local authority working in partnership in the county so that a course in a small Northamptonshire village can attract 20 students and maintain a 95 per cent attendance rate. Professor Bill Foster, the department director, points to the fact that the department's staff are appointed for their academic ability. A geologist has just been recruited to the Northampton centre from Aberdeen University and she will be expected to form links with the university's geology faculty.

Some staff members like John Benyon, staff tutor in politics and public administration, frequently lecture to undergraduates so that there is no question of "ghettoisation".

Set within the context that three times the number of graduates served by the university go through continuing education in some form or other, it is clear that adult education is central to the university's activities.

The vice-chancellor, Mr Maurice Shock, is unequivocal in his support: "Adult education is deeply rooted within the traditions of this university as the classical way in which to bring the university to the community," he said.

"We have a conviction that we will best serve that community by approaching continuing education with a long-term perspective and not by being blown off-course by fashion and fads."

He would not like to see any changes which might take place, say as a result of anything which might come out of the University Grants Committee's continuing education report, being at the expense of the traditional work which is directly related to professional education.

Strategically placed physically at the heart of the university, the department capitalizes on the university's pool of

Felicity Jones visits adult education departments with an important rural role to play

latent expertise through initiatives taken by the department's continuing education unit.

Mr Colin Bourn, who runs the unit, explains that through one-off short courses and mini-programmes like a weekend conference on "Scrum and After", professionals or interested academics can reflect upon the issues at a serious academic level rather than in a purely vocational light.

With the opening of the new biocentre and the considerable strengths the university has in biotechnology, the department has used Department of Education and Science professional money to appoint a member of staff to co-ordinate biotech short courses and expand work in this field.

Already a two-week intensive course costing £2,000 in molecular biology for researchers to update themselves on modern techniques has been successful and an invitation from the United States has been extended for the course to be taken over there.

Extension teaching has many meanings at Nottingham which has one of the largest departments of adult education. Its sphere of influence extends to Lincoln and into the Norfolk Broads where courses are provided, but its research activities can take its staff all around the country.

The Look After Yourself research project funded by the Health Education Council primarily involved John Daines and Brian Graham and drew upon the major piece of DES research which developed a methodology for the training of part-time tutors.

The Nottingham team evaluated in the first phase of their project the tutor-training programme and discovered that some tutors were reluctant to reexamine their previous practices, modify beliefs and were constrained by too short a training period.

The team went on in a second phase to organize an annual in-service training course for 200 tutors and to become personally involved in the training of trainers. The team have therefore become involved in what is known as "action research" which takes them from Glasgow to Manchester which is far outside their usual territory.

"We were highly critical of the LAY programme because it lacked good adult education ethos in its training," said Brian Graham, warden of the large city-based university centre.

Nottingham University remains steeped in a tradition of respect for adults as learners and has acquired a worldwide reputation for research and publications. A Centre for Research

into the Education of Adults has been set up as the first of its kind in the United Kingdom with research as wide and varied as the study of adult education in Japan to the provision of higher education in institutions of higher education in Britain.

The latter piece of research was carried out by Cathy Durcan, now employed as a community skills project worker who made a survey of universities and polytechnics and discovered how little institutions approached organized adult education.

The University has the largest programme of courses in computer studies and it is currently growing at 40 per cent each year. Much of this is self-financing and it is on the back of this success that an enlightened programme of courses for handicapped adults has been made possible.

The idea for the courses came to Dr Dick Jotham, a science lecturer, in a flash of inspiration when he realized how microcomputers could be the means of effective communication for people with disabilities.

"There can be little doubt of the potential of microcomputer technology to enrich the lives of many disabled adults," he said. "One of our current students cannot talk or use his hands to type and is confined to a wheelchair yet he has already produced 40 pages of well-typed article account of his life story using a BBC computer with a Wordwise chip."

To achieve this feat every letter on the computer keyboard has to be selected by sucking and blowing on a tube. People with such severe handicaps will benefit enormously in the future from aids which can be designed to make the practical operation of computers easier.

"The main problem was the access to the new technology. We could not provide the courses in Nottingham take it out to them," said Dr Jotham who has 53 disabled and 37 disabled students registered on course at residential and day centres in Leicestershire, Derby and Alfreton.

Four classes are being held in computer studies for disabled at the Cressy Fields residential centre in Alfreton through the support of the centre manager John Grant. After initial hostility from some of the residents who objected to the idea of strangers traipsing through their home, the permanent computer facility and courses have proved a success already.

Arthur, who booked himself in as a resident in the centre with severe multiple sclerosis has found that the use of the computers has restored his self-confidence and enabled him to play chess to his heart's content even though the computer never loses.

Special aids are to be arranged by staff from the St George's Hospital special unit in Lincoln for residents like Jenny who has spina bifida and hydrocephalus and has difficulty with her sight and reading the monitor and keys.

A resident at Cressy Fields residential centre gets computer practice for a Nottingham University course

Review of the Year

The decline and fall of the academic estate

by Peter Scott

Nineteen eighty-five saw the end of the honeymoon – or rather of two honeymoons. The 50-year-old special relationship between universities and the State was heading for irretrievable breakdown, while the three-year-old romance between the Department of Education and Science and the National Advisory Body began to disintegrate into marital bickering.

The first breakdown was much the more important. Future historians may even conclude that this growing divorce between the academy and the polity was one of the most significant cultural phenomena of the early 1980s. For it marks not only the collapse of the intellectual underpinning of the postwar welfare corporate Keynesian state, but also the abandonment of a tradition of social improvement fuelled by continuous education revolutions that dates back to the 1860s.

And the quality of social progress which were formed in the Victorian age and which have dominated public debate through to the 1970s have now been abandoned. Squabbles about the tone of last summer's Green Paper on higher education are simply the superficial symptoms of this cultural revolution.

It was a long honeymoon. Some would date its beginning to the 1940s, to the years of wartime mobilization, to the Blenheim Park code-breakers, to the scientists of the Manhattan project. Then higher education seemed to be able to make a direct and indispensable contribution to the achievement of the State's objectives, in defence, in social policy, everywhere. These objectives of course were more than the programmes of political parties; they reflected the vital interests of the State and of the community. Forty years ago such a naive but fortunate distinction could still be made.

Others would date this symbiosis between universities and the State to an earlier war, to the creation of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in 1916 and of the University Grants Committee three years later. Others again would prefer to place its origins still further back in the 19th century when a modern state and modern universities were first created to replace their respective "Old Corruptions".

Whenever it started the impetus of this alliance between universities and the State was sufficiently strong for it to survive into the 1970s. Indeed in the age of Robbins it was immensely strengthened by its association with another powerful stream that had flowed out of Victorian Britain into the

20th century, the expansion of educational opportunity from the elementary schools of the 1870s to the new universities of the 1960s.

Now in the 1980s that impetus is exhausted. The alliance has been abandoned. That special relationship between the dons and the politicians, between the dons and the civil servants, is at an end. Maybe it is grief at their exclusion that explains the particular grievance which the universities have about the policy of the present Government, far more than unsatisfied salary claims or the spectre of endless erosion of their recurrent grant.

That is why Oxford University decided to refuse to award Mrs Margaret Thatcher an honorary degree. This decision, unprecedented and discourteous as it may have been, was utterly logical. Earlier Prime Ministers whom Oxford has honoured – Clement

Attlee, Harold Wilson, James Callaghan – had presided over governments that respected this special relationship with the universities; indeed Harold Wilson, don, civil servant, politician, was an archetypal product of it. Mrs Thatcher presides over a government that has no time for such assumed anachronisms.

That is why such strong objection was taken to the tone of the Green Paper, while its banal details were wearily dismissed. It felt wrong more than it read wrong. This was not how the State should speak to its universities. The surprising result is that universities have become much more opposition-minded than the polytechnics and colleges, not simply because the latter have lower expectations of the Government's generosity and so have less to be disappointed about but because the former are grieving for a lost relationship.

Some, including presumably most members of the present Cabinet, are impatient with the universities' grief. They regard too many universities as closed domineering corporations which need to be broken open in the public interest. The old shadowy special relationship between universities and the State seems to them an aspect of that elitist corporatism which they despise. They believe it should be replaced by a new relationship that is even closer in the sense that universities must serve the needs of high-tech Britain and must be kept firmly away from the levers of State power. A concordat is being replaced by a service agreement.

It is true that universities have used their former special relationship for their own ends. Maybe the excellence of Britain's universities, their international strengths in science and scho-



larship, were built on the surplus value that was extracted by the bargaining power they enjoyed because the State needed and rewarded their services. So this excellence had a direct, almost functional, reliance on that special relationship. Now that the latter has been abandoned the former is threatened.

The universities' critics overlook another virtue of that fast-disappearing relationship. People from universities have served the State, on quangos and commissions and boards. They have done so as experts and also more problematically as "intellectuals" who have made up for the ideological deficiencies that are inevitable in a neutered civil service and amateur political class.

Such donations made a notable contribution to the quality of British government between 1945 and 1979. The best and the brightest in the 1940s became the great and the good of the 1960s and 1970s. Today their services have been made redundant. Experts of course cannot be dispensed with entirely; but now they are on tap rather than on top. Indeed in some political circles an extraordinary regression has taken place: the very concept of expertise has become suspect, a *prima facie* conspiracy of professional self-interest against the entrepreneurial good. As for "intellectuals" to mould and justify its programmes, the Government prefers to recruit them from Marks and Spencer.

In the 1980s, the State has abandoned its former alliance with the academic estate, its new special relationship is with the managerial estate, the big private corporations and the newly privatized public ones. Today it

is to British Telecom, not to the University of Oxford, that governments will turn to recruit the next generation of the great and the good. Such speculation must seem a long way indeed from the immediate preoccupations of higher education. But this political and cultural backdrop has never been more important. After all, for decades it remained the same; its comforting colours could be taken for granted as higher education's actors argued at the front of the stage about the binary policy, or the unit of resource, or the research councils. Now these actors have looked over their shoulders and noticed for the first time that the old familiar backdrop has gone – and, in the case of universities, they have felt a sudden chill.

The second much briefer honeymoon has been between the DES and the NAB. In the past six months it has dissolved into rows about teacher training and arguments about the proper balance between national income. The truth probably is that neither partner needs, nor likes, the other as much as they did three years ago, so confrontations have become increasingly likely.

For the DES, the NAB has done its initial jobs, to produce a semblance of planning where once there was a dangerous vacuum and to "tunnel through the hump" by getting the polytechnics and colleges to admit more students without commensurate increases in their grant. The NAB has now served notice that enough is enough – the argument between its local authority and institutional factions is only about timing – and the DES has decided that the NAB is degenerating into another lobbying

special interest. The local authorities which dominate the NAB for their part now feel more secure. They have got over the scare of 1981 when it looked as if their polytechnics and colleges were going to be taken away. They believe, maybe mistakenly, that the DES has no effective choice but to work within the compromise embodied in the NAB. Certainly one result of the NAB has been to raise the consciousness of local authorities about their higher education. Before the NAB, individual polytechnics were often seen as cuckoos in the town hall nest; today collectively they have become part of local government's unalienable territory.

But the threatened breakdown of the NAB concordat has opened up again another gaping area of uncertainty. Just as the old alliance between universities and the State has been unilaterally abrogated, so questions about the balance between national and local provision of higher education which seemed to have been settled fairly satisfactorily three years ago may be about to be reopened. This instability of policy has profound academic consequences. For from this national-local concordat flow many assumptions about the role of the non-university sector, the balance between degree and non-degree, between full and part-time, between initial and continuing education.

So the present government seems to be on the verge of provoking a war on two fronts, against the universities and against the NAB. Jarratt, Reynolds, the Green Paper, Lindop – these are simply the first engagements in a spreading conflict.



Calendar of 1985 – the faces and dates, ii-iii



That was the year that was, iv-v



The issues and the policies, vi-vii Overseas news, viii

JANUARY

The year opened with the University Grants Committee warning the Government of the pitfalls of legislating to end tenure. There had to be a workable system for sacking incompetent lecturers, said the UGC, but the protection of academic freedom was just as important.

But the big news of the month was Oxford University's much-publicized decision not to award an honorary degree to the Prime Minister. The fellows made their decision by 738 votes to 319 despite accusations from the vice chancellor elect, Sir Patrick Neill, that to do so would "subvert a long and honourable tradition".

An opinion poll commissioned by the UGC found that academics generally supported the closure of vulnerable institutions, rather than a policy of "equal misery", spreading cuts around. The Alliance was twice as popular as the Conservatives among lecturers, with Labour firmly in second place.

With the Green Paper postponed, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, sent letters of guidance to the University Grants Committee and the National Advisory Body, slightly increasing provisions for student demand in the 1990s but warning both bodies that more cuts were on the way. The message was confirmed in the Government's expenditure White Paper.

Things started to cool off at the Polytechnic of North London as Dr John Beishon took over as director for the year. Sixteen students undertook in the High Court not to picket the National Front student, Patrick Harrington. And Miss Sheila Browne, former senior chief inspector and principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, began an inquiry into the administration of the polytechnic.

Heriot-Watt University finally lost its year-long battle to save its pharmacy department, a victim of the UGC's preference for large, strong departments.

At the National Environmental Research Council, a corporate plan called for the loss of 900 jobs, uniting its institute directors in opposition. There was controversy, too, at the Science and Engineering Research Council, where Professor Derek Colley resigned as chairman of the nuclear physics board in protest at cuts in the subject's budget.

Ahead, there were new figures in high places. In India, Mr Rajiv Gandhi began his term as Prime Minister promising a leading role for higher education in modernizing the country.

Across the world in Washington, Dr William Bennett was talking over as secretary for education with more of an eye on the budget, promising to get back to basics.

FEBRUARY

Free speech on campus emerged as one of the dominant issues of the year, as Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, became the latest casualty of rowdy student protests. He was pelted with flour, eggs and paint at Strathclyde University and both the Department of Education and Science and the vice chancellors undertook to tackle the problem.

No let-up in the gloomy tidings emanating from the UGC: universities were told they would have to keep student numbers within existing targets since cash problems were likely to worsen. The committee held back £21 million for priority areas and another £6 million for urgent but small projects.

The chequered life of the Advisory Committee for the Supply and Education of Teachers took another turn for the worse, as Sir Keith Joseph announced that it was being "stood down" for the second time in seven years. He said he would consider reestablishing it in another two years.

The Council for National Academic Awards received a setback in its efforts to head off expected criticism from the Lindop committee, when academic boards of polytechnics overwhelmingly rejected its proposals for a two-tier system of validation. The arrangements, which would give some institutions a much freer hand in validation, were dismissed as too little, too late.

Manoeuvring over Unesco began to speed up. The organization's executive board bowed to Western pressure for budget cuts, but Japan followed Singapore in threatening to join Britain in

If efficiency was the most persistent leitmotif of the Government's proclamations on higher education, then Mr Ian Deesley, head of the Prime Minister's efficiency unit, was surely its most enthusiastic troubadour.

He appeared on the stage as a replacement for Sir Robin Ibbis, the Prime Minister's chief adviser on efficiency, on the Jarratt committee looking into value-for-money at universities, and soon made his presence felt with his keen sense of conviction. He has subsequently been appointed on to the NAB Inquiry team on good management practice in the public sector, and is also a member of the Croomham committee on the role of the UGC.

His expertise, he admits, lies in achieving greater efficiency rather than in higher education; but he firmly believes that the "scrutiny technique" applies to universities and polytechnics as much as to any Government department.

pulling out if reforms did not go far enough.

Changes at the top: Lord Flowers announced that he was stepping down as chairman of the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals because of ill health. But the search for a chairman for the new Scottish Vocational Education Council ended with the appointment of Dr Peter Clarke, principal of Aberlennock Robert Gordon Institute of Technology.

MARCH

Good news at last - for the universities at least. The Budget included £43 million to boost engineering and technology. Altogether the three-year "switch" programme would provide 4,000 additional student places, but the first phase would be restricted to 20 universities.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, was the next Cabinet member to experience violent student protests, this time at Manchester University. However, it was small beer compared with student protests in other parts of the world.

In Sri Lanka demonstrations throughout the island led the government to threaten to turn the universities into rehabilitation camps, while both Nairobi and Bir Zeit universities were closed again as students felt foul of the Kenyan and Israeli authorities.

The pay battle began to hot up, with the Association of University Teachers rejecting a 4 per cent offer and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education balloting members on industrial action in support of its claim for a rise of more than 20 per cent. The vice chancellors warned that high settlements would cause serious financial difficulties and might lead to compulsory redundancies.

Rumours of heavy losses at the Polytechnic of Central London on a



Officially Miss Sheila Browne has retired to the elevated obscurity of Cambridge. In practice the former senior chief HM inspector and now principal of Newnham College was frequently to be found during 1985 in higher education's rougher terrain.

But she entered a genuine minefield this spring: summoned at short notice to head the inquiry into the Polytechnic of North London. Her report, compiled as she chased colleagues' union leader Clive Jenkins and Professor Ralf Dahrendorf by telephone across Europe, was a muted, technical affair provoking gasping of teeth among those eager to prolong the scandal of PNL National Front student Patrick Harrington.

teaching contract with Libya proved to be correct and the court of governors set up an inquiry into the deal. It emerged that PCL might lose £300,000.

More polytechnics joined the movement to be allowed to add "university" to their titles. Plymouth and North East London polytechnics expressed interest in the possibility, following in the footsteps of Portsmouth and Middlesex.

Sir Keith sprung another surprise on teacher training, reversing the long-running trend of cutting student numbers and ordering an 18 per cent expansion by the end of the decade. The catch was that there would be no extra money to pay for them.

APRIL

Sir Alex Jarratt put the universities out of their misery and brought out his committee's efficiency report, which gave them a year to overhaul planning procedures, streamline debt management, and improve the way they ran their government departments. A separate study on the Open University recommended identified possible savings of £1 million per year and called for an internal management group to be established to strengthen planning there.

The National Advisory Body began translating Sir Keith's teacher training plans into practical proposals with an officers' paper suggesting the effective closure of Hertfordshire, and North Riding colleges and the College of St Mark and St John. North London and Portsmouth polytechnics would also lose their education departments.

Unruly behaviour by students continued to make the news, this time because the Federation of Conservative Students was accused of causing £1,400 of damage at Loughborough University during its conference. The party set up two inquiries and ministers, addressing the wider question, threatened to limit public support for student unions to welfare, leisure and sporting activities.

The Lindop committee also ended months of speculation about the contents of its report, proposing freedom from external validation for those polytechnics or colleges considered ready for it. Both the CNA and the universities came in for criticism over their validation procedures, although the council was also given high praise for its contribution to the development of public sector higher education.

Chairmen of governors from 18 polytechnics wrote a joint letter to Mr Peter Brooke, under secretary for higher education, protesting at the gap in funding between the universities and the public sector.

Sir Keith pressed the research councils to make more use of short-term contracts, despite evidence from the Advisory Board to the Research Councils that this entailed major disadvantages. The ABRC feared that the best candidates would not be attracted by such conditions of service and warned that many scientists had been encouraged to move into academic life precisely because of the security it offered.

Across the Channel, internationalism was all the rage. President Mitterrand was being urged to set up an open university to serve the whole of Europe, and Mme Helene Ahlweiler, rector of the Academy of Paris, was

giving details of a proposal for a University of Europe, offering postgraduate courses through a network of centres of excellence.

MAY

May was Green Paper month at last. The reception was decidedly cool as higher education and MPs digested the diet of cuts and increased vocationalism it envisaged. Mr Enoch Powell thought it philistine and Labour condemned it as a recipe for national decline; even Mr Robert Rhodes James, the Conservative Party's higher education liaison officer, said that a policy of contraction was unsupportable.

The ABRC was already engaged in an exercise designed to convince Sir Keith that science needed more money. The ABRC asked the research councils for figures on the average value of research grants, while an independent study carried out at St Andrews University found that laboratory costs were running 8 per cent ahead of inflation.

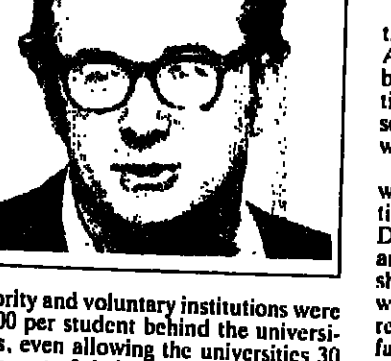
The UGC outlined its strategic planning framework for the late 1980s just ahead of the Green Paper and warned that some universities might lose 13.5 per cent of their grant in four years through a combination of Government cuts and selectivity in the allocation of research funds. Each university was advised to plan for 2 per cent cuts per year and Southampton was unlucky enough to be the one whose grant coincided with the annual cut required, leaving many with the false impression that it had been singled out for closure already.

Simultaneously with the Green Paper came fresh ammunition for the public sector in its campaign to close the gap in funding levels the universities. Comparisons produced by the DES showed that both the local au-

The UK's first professor of postgraduate studies was installed this year in the form of Dr Robert Morris, a psychologist who had previously held the post at the University of London.

Professor Morris took up the Koestler chair of parapsychology at Edinburgh University, a post founded by a £750,000 bequest from the writer Arthur Koestler and his wife Cynthia, who committed suicide together in 1982.

"Parapsychology is an interdisciplinary problem area, not a belief system," he says. He is keen to develop links with other subjects including sociology, anthropology, physics, biology and mathematics.



thority and voluntary institutions were £300 per student behind the universities, even allowing the universities 30 per cent of their income for research.

Mrs Thatcher met leading industrialists to discuss the "switch" and persuaded them to match the Government's £43 million contribution to the programme. Most of the private sector input would come in kind, rather than in cash.

Political indoctrination hit the headlines again with the publication of a report by Dr Roger Scruton, of Birkbeck College, and two colleagues, which catalogued a series of examples of alleged left-wing bias. The London University Institute of Education was said to be a notorious offender, together with Bradford University's school of peace studies. The authors called for the establishment of a new body empowered to recommend the withdrawal of state funding from institutions found guilty of indoctrination.

Fewer than half of Natfhe's branches turned out to have supported the

union's strike call, but the annual conference voted to intensify its campaign for higher pay by extending a ban on voluntary duties. The Association of Polytechnic Teachers were even less keen on strikes, a ballot showed.

The first cracks began to appear, too, in the NAB secretariat's plans for teacher training. A working group recommended a reversion for the school of education at North London Polytechnic, leaving four institutions on the "hit list".

The Polytechnics Central Admissions Service was launched as students to first degree courses were revealed at a record level of 113,500 for the year.

China, now in throes of an academic revolution, announced that it had enrolled almost 10 times as many students in the higher education system. Among the changes in progress was the abandonment of tenure in favour of one-year contracts in many universities and colleges, and the withdrawal of state funding of research, with the aim that market-orientated research institutes should become self-supporting within five years.

JUNE

Coming so soon after the cost-conscious Green Paper, the Audit Commission's report on colleges and polytechnics was bound to cause a storm. The commission maintained that 75,000 more students could be squeezed into the system and each college could save £300,000 if lecturers taught longer hours, courses were marketed more effectively and more staff were employed on junior grades.

Another long-awaited report caused a stir in the same week: that of the Kendrew committee, which had been set up to review the contribution to the University of London. Particle physicists were dismayed by the main proposal, to cut spending by a quarter by the end of the decade.

It had been a long time since the proposed "star wars" defence programme was technically impossible and might increase the risk of accidental nuclear war.

The fall-out from PCL's Libyan excursions was making life uncomfortable for the polytechnic's senior management. The internal inquiry found that they had failed to exercise proper financial control and £220,000 had been lost as a result.

However, there were signs of peace in at least one set of pay talks. Natfhe's leaders reached a provisional deal, giving polytechnic and college lecturers a 5 per cent rise immediately, with another 2 per cent to come and crucial changes in progression between pay scales.

At the NAB, the battle was still on over the teacher training cuts, as the College of St Mark and St John, North Riding College and Portsmouth Polytechnic all escaped from the hit list, leaving just Hertfordshire College of Higher Education facing the axe.

The vice chancellors announced that they would be brushing up their public image (not before time, if Mr Jocelyn Stevens, rector of the Royal College of Art, was to be believed). He and the remainder of the CVC's advisory committee called for a number of

An air of rare promise attended the work of Professor Desmond Smith's team at Heriot-Watt University, one of the world's leading groups in work which may lead to an optical computer.

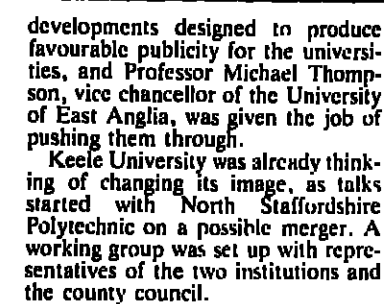
The team had already built a semiconductor-based switch for optical signals, followed quickly by an optical "translator". This year, they passed a fresh landmark, with the first three-element logic circuit using all-optical components.

According to Des Smith, this means they have demonstrated "indefinitely extensible optical logic operation", opening the way for super-fast computers using light instead of electrical signals.

Light should also be more suitable for the parallel computer architectures sought by programmes developing software for artificial intelligence.

The work rests on an accidental discovery of semiconductor switches, made during work on lasers developed from Professor

The Ministry of Defence announced a £10 million joint research scheme with the Science and Engineering



It used to be Peter Swinnerton-Dyer's name that always cropped up if you were looking for a chairman. Now it is that of his former Cambridge colleague and friend of some 30 years, Dr David Harrison.

Dr Harrison has spread himself across higher education. He was recruited from the lush plains of Keele University to take on his second vice-chancellorship at the even more lush plains of Exeter University. Then he took over the other job seemingly kept for Exeter vice chancellors, the chairmanship of the Universities Central Council on Admissions.

Finally he became chairman of the Voluntary Sector Consultative Council, which gives him a seat on the National Advisory Body.

Research Council to give the universities a share of the MOD's £2 billion a year research budget. Behind the scenes, however, both the DES and the Department of Trade and Industry were staking a claim for a much bigger share to be transferred to civil research.

Military matters were on the minds of British computer scientists, too. More than 70 of them from universities and research councils gathered in London to discuss the proposed "star wars" defence programme was technically impossible and might increase the risk of accidental nuclear war.

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SEPTEMBER

The loose ends began to be tied up at PNL. Patrick Harrington, the student at the centre of all the controversy, got his degree (a lower second in philosophy) and Miss Sheila Browne's report blamed management for the previous year's crisis. Dr David MacDowall, the director who took early retirement, naturally did not agree.

Mr Maurice Shock, chairman of the CVC, wrote to Sir Keith, warning of the dangers of deteriorating pay rates and putting forward proposals for incentives for good performance. The initiative angered the AUC, which had expected a joint approach.

The Government reshuffle brought Mr Chris Patten to the DES as minister of state with further education among his responsibilities. Mr Peter Brooke resumed responsibility for adult and continuing education, which Sir Keith had been overseeing personally.

Labour unveiled its attempts to win back the higher education vote. They came in the shape of Higher Education for the Labour Party (HELP), launched at the party conference, and a charter for higher education, details of which were given some way ahead of publication. They included level funding for the universities, extra resources for polytechnics and colleges, and a new package of student support.

Desperate times at Liverpool Polytechnic after it became clear that the city council would not be using its money from the advanced further education pool to protect the polytechnic from an impending cash crisis. Special arrangements were made to ensure that the polytechnic was able to start the new academic year only a day late.

In Scotland, two colleges escaped from the clutches of their local authorities as Napier and Glasgow colleges of technology became central institutions. While in London a warning of

the UGC's spell out just what it meant by a small department, giving a series of guidelines for minimum viable size in different subjects. Universities were advised to undertake rationalization themselves before the UGC stepped in to do it for them.

Concern over the growing trade in bogus degrees grew as *The Times* bought a bachelor of arts degree from North West London University for £150. The DES had already set about monitoring academic fraud and ministers said they were considering legislation.

Reports on the future of art and architecture in higher education caused furors in their own academic worlds. A transboundary group set up to make recommendations on the implementation of cuts in architecture proposed the closure of one university and three polytechnic schools, while a NAB group advocated a radical reorganization of art education, shortening the majority of degree courses to two years.

Another working party, this time on future computing needs, produced a report calling for £60 million to be spent on supercomputers for the universities. Nothing less would do to keep British researchers abreast of international competition.

Smith's earlier research in solid state physics. But the possibilities were immediately clear, and his team is now part of a major European Community-funded network of groups working on different aspects of optoelectronics.

He is also chairman of a university-derived firm, Edinburgh Semiconductors, and recently became a member of the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development.

The optical computer work has attracted considerable interest from industry, and Professor Smith was the first British academic to be offered money by the US "star wars" research agency.

The challenge now is to move from a primitive optical digital computer to a fully parallel architecture exploiting the potential advantages of light signals.

At the moment, he calls his work "exciting science which is going to get more exciting in the future."

There was a surprise new arrival at the DES. Mr George Walden, a former diplomat who had been an MP for only two years, took over responsibility for higher education and science. Mr Peter Brooke went to the Treasury to replace Mr Ian Gow, who had resigned over the accord on Ulster.

The City University/Polytechnic merger became a possibility again,

Frank Griffiths knew he was in for a tough life when he became education secretary of the main college lecturers' union earlier this year.

The constant demands of being one of two representatives of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education on the National Advisory Body would have been enough in themselves.

But on top of that Mr Griffiths, has had to contend with the Audit Commission report, the crisis over the funding of non-advanced further education, the threat posed by Liverpool's bankruptcy.

His background has stood him in good stead for these challenges, however. He was a Labour candidate for Stockton South in 1983, in a campaign that became one of the messiest when it was discovered that his Tory opponent had had connections with the National Front.

decision prompted the Bishop of London to write to the Prime Minister on behalf of the Church of England, insisting that no more of its colleges should be shut.

There was bad news for another 15 colleges and institutes which had lodged bids with the NAB to become polytechnics. Only three (Humbeside and Derbyshire colleges and the Rotherham Institute) satisfied the purely mechanistic criteria set by the NAB, and it was decided to postpone discussion of the question for a year.

A rare example of more money flowing into higher education was announced by the Wellcome Trust, which would have £15 million more to spend after share sales. Medical research will receive some £40 million from the Trust next year as a result.

With the establishment of the Council for Higher Education and Industry, under the chairmanship of Mr James Prior, the former Cabinet minister and chairman of the General Electric Company. The group modelled itself on a similar enterprise in the United States and announced its intention of acting as a broker both to attract new funds into higher education and to improve links with industry.

Buckingham University stepped in where Oxford refused to tread and offered the Prime Minister an honorary degree. This time the proposal was passed without a vote.

Scandal at Leeds Polytechnic: a governors' report found unprofessional conduct, including drunkenness and sexual harassment in the Fine Art department. The inquiry had been ordered when nine students appealed against their 1984 degree classifications.

Money - or the lack of it - was on everyone's mind in November. The Government's autumn spending statement painted a bleak picture of the immediate future for universities and the public sector, despite an increase in the science budget and more funds for selected university research centres.

The other bright spot was a £500,000 new blood scheme for social science and the humanities, providing 25 studentships in each of the next three years.

Battle had already been joined over the size of next year's advanced further education pool. The autumn statement confirmed that polytechnics and colleges would get a total of £660 million, some £15 million short of the NAB's requirements. The NAB committee decided not to cut student numbers to protect funding levels, thus provoking a row with board members.

The NAB also found itself in even deeper confrontation with Sir Keith, who rejected a revised timetable for a new review of research and development and threatened to ask his officials to do the job instead unless he received fresh advice by May.

There was a surprise new arrival at the DES. Mr George Walden, a former diplomat who had been an MP for only two years, took over responsibility for higher education and science. Mr Peter Brooke went to the Treasury to replace Mr Ian Gow, who had resigned over the accord on Ulster.

The City University/Polytechnic merger became a possibility again,



following an intervention by Sir David Hancock, the DES Permanent Secretary. He wrote to both institutions, suggesting new talks, although the department was at pains to point out that he was not issuing an instruction.

Liverpool Polytechnic survived the city's crisis but lost its director. Mr John Mackenzie was appointed to head the new London Art Institute.

New evidence of a brain drain depriving the country of many top scientists appeared in a report by the Advisory Board for the Research Councils. A survey of 40 university research groups confirmed the ABRC's suspicions that scientists were leaving the country at an increasing rate, mainly for the United States.

The Economic and Social Research Council put 14 institutions, including eight universities, on a blacklist, making them ineligible for research studentships because of poor PhD completion rates.

DECEMBER

Scotland has long been in the limelight at the end of the year. The long-awaited and closely-guarded report of the Scottish Tertiary Education Advisory Council plumped for a single body to plan all higher education north of the border, with the responsibility for funding the universities transferring from the UGC to the Scottish Education Department.

Three colleges of education would close and the technological central institutions would form a federal Institute of Technology.

The NAB's row with Sir Keith came out into the open at a face-to-face confrontation lasting almost two hours. The NAB committee had been warned by Mr John Bevan, the body's secretary, that eight polytechnics might have to close if there was no more money for 1987-8. But it extracted no concessions from Sir Keith, despite offering to move its whole planning exercise forward to accommodate his desire for early advice on teacher training intakes.

The DES published its plans for abolishing tenure through the appointment of three commissioners empowered to amend university statutes. Lecturers would retain tenure only if they stayed in their existing jobs, were promoted at the same university, or moved to an equivalent post elsewhere.

The fruits of the Government's increase in the science budget were shared out among the research councils with instructions that it was to be used highly selectively to expand work directed towards industry and stemming from research in the area. The annual report of research and development showed how much the increase was needed: Britain was the only leading Western nation to cut the proportion of gross national product spent on research.

Plans to increase student grants by only 2 per cent, while removing the right to claim some benefits, led Mr Robert Rhodes to resign as the Conservative Party's liaison officer for higher education.

Europe figured unusually prominently in the news, the EEC announcing two big projects, one to increase links between higher education and industry, and the other to promote student mobility. Mr Walden was anxious to maintain the trend, suggesting a Europe-wide review of CERN before ruling on the Kendrew report.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Green Paper gives birth to the blues



Sir Alex Jarratt

Looking after the business

The need for universities to achieve greater value for money was one of Sir Keith Joseph's most persistent themes over the last couple of years. But the Jarratt report on efficiency which finally appeared in April may well have disappointed him.

Most importantly, the committee, chaired by the chairman of Reed International, Sir Alex Jarratt, did not quantify any immediate savings to be made in university administration and management. Sir Alex explained at the report's launch that this was never part of his team's brief, but many people believed that Sir Keith was expecting to be handed a sum with which he could justify future cuts in funding.

The report did focus, however, on university institutions, urging greater assertion of responsibilities by councils, and a more systematic appraisal of academic plans - reforms which had already been implemented by many universities in the wake of the 1981 cuts.

Another setback for Sir Keith was the concentration of the report on the failings of the Government. With glaring clarity, the Government was urged to "avoid thrusting crises on universities by sudden short-term changes of course", while the University Grants Committee was also exhorted to "provide aid and make known its own views about the prospects and directions for higher education".

The report recommended that the Government commission an examination of the role, structure and staffing of the UGC, which led to the formation of the Croom committee, expected to report next spring.

These points, many universities felt, deflected attention away from their own shortcomings; yet these, too, came under the Jarratt spotlight. The most radical reforms proposed were in the development of reliable and consistent performance indicators and arrangements for staff development, appraisal and accountability.

The greatest opportunity to improve efficiency and effectiveness, said the report, was in the planning and use of resources, and all universities should concentrate on developing small planning and resources committees, and budget centres, which should always be aware of the full cost of their activities.

The adoption of business techniques by universities would be made complete by the transformation in the role of the vice chancellor, who should provide leadership and exercise executive authority - in short, "shift to the style of a chief executive".

In October, the efficiency quest was expanded to take the public sector into account, with the announcement of an inquiry into polytechnics and colleges, chaired by Mr Christopher Ball, chairman of the NAB board. The team was asked by Sir Keith to weigh up academic standards against cost-effectiveness, and is expected to report in the autumn.

The main event of the year in higher education was also the most unpopular for many people - the publication of the Green Paper in May after a long hiatus.

It had been delayed for three months and rewritten in shorter form after the collapse of Sir Keith Joseph's plans to provide extra support for science by cutting student grants. It was to have been published in tandem with a consultative paper launching a review of student support, but Cabinet reluctance to reopen public discussion on loans eventually caused the review to be abandoned.

By then, the Green Paper was already the subject of a barrage of criticism from MPs and academics. The most damning verdict came from Professor Robin Marris, the Birkbeck College economist, who thought it "perhaps the worst state paper in British history". Even the Prime Minister was said to be less than impressed.

The document sprang few surprises, but the overall impression created by recording the Government's collective policies on higher education made depressing reading. Its themes were an unrelenting drive for further economies, a continuing shift of resources

from arts and social science into science and technology, and a requirement for higher education to be concerned primarily with contributing to improvements in the economy.

Arguments advanced by the University Grants Committee and the National Advisory Body for better funding, a more optimistic view of future student demand and a variety of new initiatives were either rejected or ignored. Indeed, with the exceptions of a review of the UGC and a revision of the Robbins principle on access to higher education, there was hardly a positive proposal throughout.

The new version of the Robbins principle, put forward jointly by the UGC and the NAB, held that ability to benefit should be the guiding criterion for entry to higher education, rather than formal qualifications. However, there was an important rider - that the benefit had to be sufficient to justify the cost. The student's motivation and assessed, regardless of paper qualifications.

While denying that it placed a low value on the humanities or other non-vocational subjects, the Government made it clear from the outset that higher education had to be more



Mr Peter Brooke

attuned to the needs of the economy. "Unless the country's economic performance improves, we shall be even less able than now to afford many of the things that we value most, including education for pleasure and general culture and research as an end in itself," it said.

Brushing aside detailed analyses suggesting more buoyant student de-

mand than had been projected, a paper stuck to the gloomy forecast produced at the start of the year predicting the amalgamation of some departments, or the closure of institutions in the 1990s. Before some university departments could expect to have all research funds because of a more selective approach by the UGC.

Among the other possible changes were the introduction of two degrees for the brightest students, differential rates of pay for outstanding academics and those with shortage subjects, and new means to ensure the preservation of free space on campuses.

The list of changes ruled out included the establishment of a planning body to cover the universities and the public sector, equal funding for teaching between the two sectors and a successor to the "new blood" scheme for young lecturers.

A number of issues had to be ignored because of continuing inquiries by the Jarratt, Lindop and Reynolds committees and the Scottish Tertiary Education Advisory Council. They will have to wait until the White Paper promised before the end of 1986.

How the switch became a lever

Three years hence, 500 or so extra engineers and technologists will come on to the job market. That is one of the few certainties in the continuing debate over Government efforts to increase output of graduates with the new skills industry wants.

It is certain because the 500 will be the first fruits of the £43 million vide 4,000 new student places in these subjects over three years, starting this year.

This fell far short of the Engineering Council's bid for \$100 million a year extra for engineering education, but the new money, from the departments of Industry, Employment, Energy and the Scottish and Welsh Offices, with a further Grants Committee reserves, was an index of how seriously the Government viewed reports of skill shortages.

It was also a useful lever to help industry to take up its side of the "new partnership" envisaged in reports from Mr John Butcher's Department of Trade and Industry-led committee on skills supply, and to move higher education institutions faster towards greater emphasis on science and technology - the much-discussed "switch".

Industry was involved at every stage. In selection of awards from the £43 million, chiefly through the Information Technology Skills Agency, set up by the Confederation of British Industry under Sir Robert Clayton. Industrialists summoned to Downing Street in May pledged to match the contribution from the Echequer with support in kind - lecturers, equipment and staff. As well as working more closely with industry, it was made clear that univer-



Sir Robert Clayton

sities and polytechnics - who were included in phase two of the new partnership programme after vigorous lobbying - were also meant to switch resources internally to boost science. The Green Paper called for more engineering, technology and vocational courses, and told careers advisers to bear in mind there would be fewer higher education places in the arts and humanities in future.

But the larger shift will create more problems than allocating the extra money awarded this year. The disciplines targeted for the switch - like software engineering, computer science, electrical and electronic engineering and materials science - were precisely the areas where universities found it hard to attract or keep good staff. Straws in the wind here were the Green Paper's enthusiasm for differential salaries for lecturers and the award of £1.4 million to the Open

University for new distance learning programmes in the second round of grants from the £43 million.

There are also questions marks over the supply of extra entrants to fill new places in high tech subjects. Although studies of universities like the Science and Engineering Research Council's information technology conversion courses indicate strong demand for the new graduates, a lack of potential students who predicted a recession in the 1980s which led to empty laboratories, noted that even from the 1985 student entry had two-thirds of the polytechnics failing to meet their increased targets for new engineers this year. They included seven out of the eight polytechnics granted money to increase their intake further next year.

The unpredictability of the system was also demonstrated by the National Audit Office's finding late in the year that the UGC's management of the 1981 cuts achieved the precise opposite of the effect intended. Asked to protect science and engineering, the committee instituted a voluntary retirement scheme which led to preferential removal of scientists and technologists.

The report underlined that the first obstacle to achieving the switch outlined as the Government's wish for the year was the continuing effect of the policy of the early 1980s. Universities will be hoping some of the 500 extra student recruits this year will start the system when they graduate to teach their successors, instead of taking up more lucrative offers from industry - at home or overseas.

Quotes of the year

"If you were as bright as academics have to be but were also obnoxious, you would go into business and make a great deal of money. It is nice to see that keeps you in academic life." - Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer addressing a British Council seminar.

"It looks as if the panzer divisions of the University Grants Committee have triumphed again and the NAB's chocolate soldiers have melted in the heat of battle." - Dr Ray Rickett on the Government's spending plans for higher education.

"Essentially, the Green Paper is rolling the wicket for rationalization." - Mr Peter Brooke, then under-secretary for higher education.

Win some, lose some as

For very different reasons 1985 has turned out to be a potentially historic year for both university and college lecturers and their places in the earnings league.

It may have seemed touch and go at times but in the public sector union negotiators led by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education achieved a salary award worth 7.9 per cent by the end of the financial year - not too far out of line with inflation if a long way short of the 20.5 per cent they were seeking as a step towards restoring the Houghton

relativities. But, just as important, they achieved a breakthrough which had been top of the list of aspirations for 12 years - automatic progression from the top point of the lowest salary scale. The new Labour leadership on the say the L1/L2 merger as the price for doing a deal with the lecturers and demonstrating to the schoolteachers that a negotiated settlement was pos-

sible despite the tight constraints on funding.

With the changed status of national joint council, combining pay on salaries and conditions and from the dead hand of statutory control, the way is now clear for the radical reappraisal of the salary scale that the employers have sought for the past year.

Down in Nottingham Hill, leaders of the Association of University Teachers must be deeply envious, not only of this year's public sector settlement, but of the climate in which it was reached. If Nafsu's path to a settlement was far from smooth, involving the first national industrial action in a decade, theirs have barely been discernible. Nine months after the settlement date, despite several fruitless meetings with the university employers, the two sides are stuck at their 4 per cent starting point.

The vice chancellors have repeatedly made clear that they cannot afford to move beyond 4 per cent, itself 1 per

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Sir Norman's tale of quality control

There is no real argument about who is responsible for quality in higher education: it is the staff in the institutions. In the public sector, HM Inspectors, the Council for National Academic Awards, the institutions themselves and the Lindop inquiry into validation all agree upon that.

Their quarrels come over who is responsible for minimum acceptable quality, a different thing altogether. The Lindop report, published in April this year, said even with external examiners, that was primarily the responsibility of institutions. External validation was often wholly or partly redundant: in some cases it even hindered higher standards.

The Lindop committee came out in favour of a limited number of institutions having complete, university-style freedom of external validation. These institutions would be designated by the Secretary of State - and others given more freedom than before. Their main principle was that academic standards were mainly guaranteed within, not outside, the institutions.

Institutions had six weeks to respond to Lindop, and did so without marked enthusiasm apart from the handful of polytechnics which thought they were in line for designation and freedom. The CNA, after some deliberation, decided that minimum quality should be preserved by a national peer review system without formal external validation of every course, and in October signed experimental agreements with Sheffield and Newcastle polytechnics allowing their academic boards to validate all old and new courses, under the CNA aegis. The council also asked for changes in its Royal Charter.

Meanwhile Sir Keith still has to decide on the future of Lindop, torn between his own taste for quality watchdogs, his distaste - shared by his political advisers - for the CNA, and the problems of how he can insist on greater controls on public sector standards when he appears to have accepted the argument that the best guarantors of university quality are the universities themselves.

Meanwhile, the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals' working group on academic standards, chaired by the former vice chancellor of Lancaster, Professor Philip Reynolds, pro-

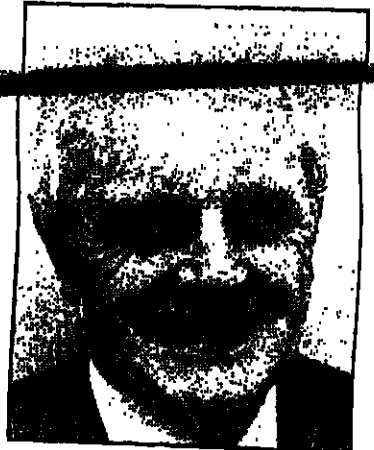
duced four reports during the year which were circulated to all universities.

In January, the CVCP published a code of practice on postgraduate training and research, which recommended that universities produce a statement spelling out the duties of both supervisor and student, to establish "clear and explicit mutual expectations".

In July, another code of practice, on academic appeals at postgraduate research degree level, allowed grounds for appeal in the cases of procedural irregularities in the conduct of an examination, where there was evidence of an examiner or if there existed circumstances affecting the student's performance. Appeals of this nature did not apply to undergraduates or taught postgraduates.

Also in July, the Reynolds group revised its code on the external examiner system for first degree and taught masters' courses, emphasizing the importance of external examiners submitting annual written reports, and of their discussing with the relevant academic department the structure and content of courses and degrees.

In September, the committee published a paper on universities' internal procedures for maintaining and monitoring academic standards. One of Sir Keith Joseph's pet themes. The paper included advice on how to establish an effective monitoring system. Data should be gathered over a rolling three or five-year period.



Sir Norman Lindop

Quotes of the year

"The only contribution the Government economies made to the advancement of knowledge was to stand Descartes on his head with the proposition: 'Sum, ergo cogito.'" - Sir Alwyn Williams, principal of Glasgow University.

"Frankly, I've never heard of it. We don't have anything in the budget so I guess the answer is nothing." - Education Department spokesman on the United States' contribution to International Youth Year.

the lecturers fight on for more pay

cent above the cash limit allowance for pay rises.

The history of the whole summer and autumn period has been stalemated by more stalemate, frustrating for the negotiators and worrying control, the way is now clear for the radical reappraisal of the salary scale that the employers have sought for the past year.

Down in Nottingham Hill, leaders of the Association of University Teachers must be deeply envious, not only of this year's public sector settlement, but of the climate in which it was reached. If Nafsu's path to a settlement was far from smooth, involving the first national industrial action in a decade, theirs have barely been discernible. Nine months after the settlement date, despite several fruitless meetings with the university employers, the two sides are stuck at their 4 per cent starting point.

The vice chancellors have repeatedly made clear that they cannot afford to move beyond 4 per cent, itself 1 per



Mr Peter Dawson of Nafsu

they were balanced, were made to the other main groups. A straight percentage offer to the technicians was accepted; a flat rate rise but weighted



Students demonstrate against Patrick Harrington at the High Court

Taking a firm line on freedom of speech

Throughout the year, Sir Keith Joseph has returned constantly to the theme of freedom of speech, an issue which he regards as fundamental to university life.

Vice chancellors see his interest as something of an obsession, but he has repeatedly told them that if universities expect to be treated with respect, they must accept their responsibilities as bastions of tolerance and basic freedoms.

Discussions within the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals around the extent to which universities are able to control demonstrations at all, particularly when, as they believe, outside forces provoke most of the trouble at controversial meetings.

Perhaps surprisingly, Sir Keith resisted the temptation to bring up the subject in detail at the vice chancellors' residential meeting in September, but he made it clear that he expected them to take a firm line by issuing a code of practice which guaranteed the rights of any guest speaker to be heard.

His strong line forced the vice chancellors to consider the code at all their subsequent monthly meetings, but legal difficulties have prevented its release until this month.

While most of them have shared Sir Keith's concern over free speech, they have also been anxious to preserve the universities' traditional espousal of other basic liberties, namely the freedom of assembly and demonstration. It is this delicate balancing line which has proved so elusive - particularly in the face of the numerous incidents which have brought the full glare of publicity to bear on the subject.

The difficulties in deciding how to follow this delicate path are illustrated by the two major incidents this year at Manchester University. In the spring a number of students were hurt when a police tactical aid group was apparent-

ly used to break up a demonstration against Mr Leon Brittan, the then Home Secretary who had been invited by the university Conservative Association. The incident is still subject to a police investigation but witnesses have complained that the action was unnecessary and excessively violent.

The other is the more recent treatment of Home Office minister Mr David Waddington, who was spat at and attacked when he tried to address a meeting at the university.

Setting its own disciplinary procedures in train, but the union is anxious to underline its own autonomy by dealing with the culprits itself.

But it is the Waddington incident which drew Sir Keith's fire. His growing impatience with the vice chancellors stems from their apparent inability to impose a tight code of discipline on their students.

The Harrington affair at the Polytechnic of North London, on which Miss Sheila Browne reported education is to destabilization by the forces of both right and left.

The Social Democratic Party, whose platform from which Dr Owen launched his blitz on the "no platform for racists and fascists" policy adopted by many unions and endorsed by the National Union of Students, says that the law of the land should be the only permissible control on what is said on campus.

But supporters of the policy say it can be applied to safeguard the very ideals Sir Keith holds dear. They are among the first to condemn its use against right-wing Conservative MPs who have been the targets of many of the protests in the past months.

But the MPs who have been at the centre of the storms - Mr Harvey Proctor and Mr John Carlisle - are despised by the protesters. Likely to be invited because they are provocative. Two sides are playing the game and the vice chancellors are unable to referee without a rule book.

Quotes of the year

"There is no way I shall be staying at PNL beyond Christmas." - Mr John Belton, newly-appointed director of the Polytechnic of North London.

"I accept that its tone could - and perhaps should - have been different." - Sir Keith Joseph on the Green Paper.

"As far as the media are concerned, the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals is the dog that does not bark." - Mr Jocelyn Stevens, rector of the Royal College of Art.

The Tory turn of the screw

It has not been a good year for higher education planners. Neither the University Grants Committee nor the National Advisory Body got what it wanted from the Green Paper, and one ended the year the subject of a Government review while the other was locked in conflict with Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Both organizations have spent much of 1985 preparing for crucial decisions to be taken in the year ahead. In the UGC's case, this includes the new selective research funding policy, which from May will be used as the basis for the universities' recurrent grant allocation.

It is a creeping policy: small changes at the beginning but by the end of three years some universities will be noticeably different - much poorer and with a narrower range.

Crucial evidence for the UGC tellers will be the universities' own research and policy statements now being read at Park Crescent. For the second half of this year universities have been writing and making their own decisions on which subject areas to promote and which to leave undefended.

They have also been asked to provide financial forecasts and the UGC is keen to impress on the Government the serious damage being done because of the continued under-funding of the universities.

Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, UGC chairman, warned in July that if the downward spiral of cuts continued then closure of universities would be sooner rather than later - but the Government would have to pick the names.

If for the universities this year has been one of anxiety and calculation the UGC itself has had a flutter of nerves. The Government has appointed a committee of inquiry, chaired by Lord Croom, to examine the role and functions of the UGC.

For the NAB, it has been a story of rebuffs and confrontation. First the public sector was omitted from the Government's "switch" programme; then the body's advice on teacher training was rejected; two colleges were kept open against its advice; and there were sharp exchanges on the size of the advanced further education pool and the timing of the revised advice on teacher education mistakes.

In terms of closures, the NAB's bark again proved much worse than its bite. A list of three colleges and two polytechnic departments was whittled away in the course of the teacher training discussions to the point where only Hertfordshire College remained.

Sir Keith was not satisfied and ordered a year's reprieve for the college while other victims were added.

It was the same story where architecture was concerned, except that here the UGC also followed the example. A working party's recommendation for four closures was watered down to the point where only North East London Polytechnic's school has been put forward for the axe.

By the end of the year, the NAB's patience had snapped and a showdown took place with Sir Keith after calculations had shown that slight polytechnics might have to close unless the Government or the body itself changed its policies.

The NAB board was doing its best to ensure that it would not be the NAB which weakened, having sought a meeting with the committee to test its resolve on restoring reasonable funding levels for the institutions.

However, the rows should not obscure the fact that a number of important decisions were taken and approved during 1985. The funding system changed, for example, removing the polytechnics' right to a predetermined share of the pool but making the proportion of degree courses a determining factor.

There was also a significant reduction in the red tape associated with course approvals and the establishment of a research fund - albeit after the almost obligatory objection from Sir Keith over allocations from it.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

New broom made colleges bristle

from William Norris

WASHINGTON
1985 was a year which began with the appointment of a new American secretary of education. To the regret of many, it seems unlikely that 1986 will start in the same way.

Not that William Bennett has swept through the graves of academe like a new broom, clearing the dead leaves with reforming zeal – indeed, for a new broom he has seemed remarkably short on bristles. The problem is rather that he has displayed a regard for words above deeds, and the words have not been well chosen.

He began as he meant to go on, conveying his opening press conference with remarks about rich students who should divest themselves of expensive stereos, cars, and holidays at the beach before they tapped the government for money. Echoes can still be heard of the howl of outrage which followed, and where another man might have put himself in quarantine to curb the spread of foot in mouth disease, Mr Bennett went defiantly on, repeating the gaffe whenever he got the chance.

His motive, of course, was to support the Reagan administration's proposal to make deep cuts in the level of student grants and loans. In this he was to prove wholly unsuccessful.

After labouring for 10 months, the House of Representatives gave overwhelming approval last week, by 350 votes to 67, to legislation which extends dozens of student aid programmes

through to the 1991-2 academic year, and which increases the amount of money to be spent by \$1.3 billion.

This crushing defeat, which will bring considerable relief to colleges and students, will hardly have enhanced Mr Bennett's reputation at the White House. Mr Reagan is furious and has already threatened to veto the Bill, though with such massive support behind it he may well be overruled.

The year thus ends with the relief of one financial worry for American higher education. Two more remain: the president's tax reform proposal, which may remove tax deductions for charitable gifts to universities, and the much-debated budget-balancing amendment, which could make sweeping percentage cuts in spending on education and much else.

Both of these are currently stalled in congress and may remain there for some time, ensuring that in 1986 as in 1985, money is likely to be the prime topic of conversation on campus.

With tuition fees rising at more than double the rate of inflation, and stories beginning to emerge of students crippled by debt for years after leaving university, this is hardly surprising. Mr Bennett has shown himself eager to gather in the delinquent loans – one of his few executive actions – and has also berated the universities for failing to offer value for money. Which may be true, but has not endeared him to administrators desperate to find cash for buildings and equipment.

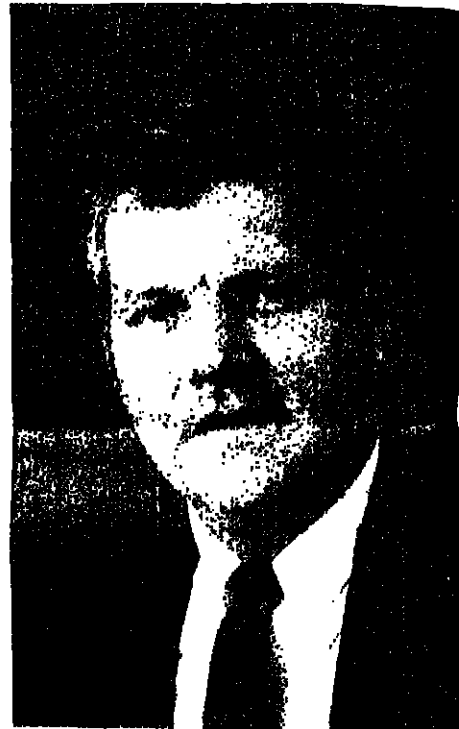
After money, the education department's main priority seems to have been religion. Mr Bennett, the product of a Catholic school, is in favour of it and would like to see more prayer everywhere, especially in schools. This has brought him into conflict with the Supreme Court and the first amendment to the constitution, both of which he is currently trying to outflank with his education voucher proposals.

Universities are presently unaffected, but watch this space. Mr Bennett, loud in his pulpit, is clearly unaware of Lord Chesterfield's dictum that religion is not a proper subject of conversation in mixed company.

The other headline-maker of the year has been college sport, which arouses more passions in America than religion and politics combined. There have been cocaine and player-poaching scandals among the basketball players and a move in Texas, closely followed by other states, to bar students from extra-curricular activities if they fail to achieve good academic results.

This blow at the hallowed "jock" tradition (athletes are about the only people who can get their education for nothing) has caused a tremendous stir and cries of "foul".

But Texas is claiming good results, and the trend is likely to spread. It is one controversy from which Mr Bennett has kept aloof – perhaps because he realizes that his own grades at the end of his first term would definitely disqualify him from college football.



William Bennett... regard for words above deeds

China reconstructs for 21st century

by Geoffrey Parkins

China has embarked on an ambitious programme of radical reform and expansion in higher scientific and technological education this year which will set the pattern for the system well into the next century.

University enrolment reached a record 563,000 (1.16 million including colleges) and the country is currently expanding and re-equipping its universities and colleges to turn out five million graduates in science, technology and management by 1990.

But 1985 will also be remembered as the year in which China abandoned the cherished socialist principle of free higher education, tenure for academics, drastically reduced state funding and commercialized most of its higher education system.

The impetus for reform and expansion has come mainly from the Chinese government's recognition of the crucial importance of education in achieving the country's modernization programme, and the realization that if China were to meet the worldwide technological revolution, radical reforms in the management and organization of scientific and technological education and research would be essential.

The first moves came in April when the Communist Party central committee announced that tenure for university and college staff was to end and be replaced by a system of one-year contracts, the hope being that this would facilitate greater mobility and efficiency in the deployment of staff. Very recently, how-



Premier Zhao: 'commercialization'

ever, the state education commission has become more flexible and even suggested that two to four-year contracts would be more practical in most cases.

This was followed by premier Zhao Ziyang's announcement in May that nearly all scientific and technological research and study were to be reformed and geared directly to meeting the needs of industry and the new "planned market economy".

State funding, said Zhao, would give way to "commercialization", and projects would be judged in terms of their "profitability". The main aim, he said, was to turn all research into "economic profitability and growth" and the way to achieve this was by integrating research and study with production, allowing greater autonomy in decision-making at local university and industrial

levels and rewarding success. The hope is that most research institutes and university departments would become self-supporting within three to five years.

Perhaps the most surprising move of the year came later in May, when the central committee ruled that free higher education would no longer be replaced by a scholarship system linking level of grant to academic performance. Grants would, however, be retained for teacher training, and for students selected for tough assignments on graduation or in financial difficulties.

Other measures introduced included:

- the introduction of student fees for the majority of students
- greater autonomy for universities and colleges on how they acquire and spend their funds, make appointments, and design and teach courses
- freedom to select their own research and engage in commercially profitable projects as institutions, departments or individuals
- a new graduate-assignment scheme whereby study and future work are agreed between the state, employers, institutions and students
- a massive increase in the training of teachers for schools, with an emphasis on the teaching of practical and technical skills for employment
- a large increase in the number of junior middle, middle and technical schools, with far more emphasis on vocational education.

By late June, with the setting-up of the new state education commission under vice premier Li Peng (an

engineer), with far greater powers than the former education ministry, the government's intentions had been made quite clear. Almost the whole of the education system was being geared to achieving the country's economic goals and modernization.

Progress has been hampered by a serious shortage of appropriately trained technical and managerial staff and equipment problems caused by rapid expansion in the universities. But the central committee's educational proposals for its seventh five-year plan (1986-90) announced last month are intended to take up whatever slack remains in the system.

This includes producing 2.6 million university graduates and 200,000 postgraduates in science, technology and management, turning out another two million degree level specialists from the colleges, sending much larger numbers of students to overseas universities, taking further steps to strengthen education's links with industry, and ensure that research and study is geared directly to profitable production and new technology growth areas.

Besides forging international educational links, the new reforms and open policy have also brought about changes in educational philosophy and a liberalizing of attitudes. The new emphasis is on developing a "bold, critical and enterprising" attitude in young people, instead of the acquisition of knowledge. Alternative points of view are being encouraged in the universities to a degree that would have been thought unthinkable only a year or so ago.

Training ground for 'republican elite'

from David Dickson

PARIS
The past year has been one of consolidation for most French universities, a period in which they have focused on putting into effect the changes in the undergraduate curriculum and university administration introduced by the Socialist government – and at the same time, began to prepare for the further changes that they expect to face if the government is defeated by the opposition in next March's general elections.

The first full year of teaching the new undergraduate first-year courses, which place strong emphasis on the acquisition of professional skills and was a centrepiece to the higher education law passed at the beginning of 1984, went relatively smoothly, met by the beginning of the new academic year in October, over half of the students entering university were taking such courses.

At the same time, new minister for education, M. Jean-Pierre Chevènement,

added a new twist to the reforms, introduced by his predecessor M. Alain Savary, by moving away from Savary's emphasis on mass university education towards the role of universities as the training ground for what he described as a "republican elite".

For example, he announced the creation of a new high-powered undergraduate degree, known as a *licence*, for which students will be selected by a special examination at the end of the second year. There will only be a limited number of such courses, and each will be provided with special funding by the government, in the hope that they will become as sought-after as courses in some of the prestigious *grandes écoles*.

M. Chevènement also announced that there will be a major effort to increase the number of undergraduate students entering scientific and engineering courses, with the overall goal of doubling the number of engineering graduates by the end of the century.

The government explicitly committed itself to giving greater priority to university-based science and technology activities in a law setting out the principles for spending on



M. Chevènement... switch to science

research over the next three years. Its previous law, covering the period 1982 to 1985, had been criticized by university circles for concentrating increased funding for science on government research laboratories. In September, the government announced that – in line with the terms of the new law – funding for university research projects would be increased by 12.5 per cent next year, compared to a smaller increase of 8.4 per cent for the National Centre for Scientific Research.

It also agreed to make a special allowance in the budget for 1986 for university research equipment. In particular for the purchase of new computers. Several university research teams are expected to become involved in Eureka, a scheme launched by the French government at the beginning of the year and since approved by other European governments to collaborate on research and development projects in various fields of advanced technology.

Social work lesson for tutors

The decision by the Central Council for the Education and Training of Social Workers to make a single award in social work and increase the length of training has given impetus to tutors and agencies to strengthen their links. ERIC SAINSBURY argues that the partnership must be firmly rooted in structures and outlines the success of Sheffield's pioneering scheme

With financial assistance from the University Grants Committee, a senior probation officer has been appointed quarter-time to assist in the administration of the joint centre for its first three years.

All candidates for admission to social work courses, if called for interview, are jointly interviewed by tutors and senior agency staff-members. The latter are selected by the heads of courses from lists supplied by chief officers, and no places are offered on courses without the agreement of both interviewers.

The polytechnic and university have formally appointed panels of professional advisers representing the full range of fields of expertise, levels of employment and types of agency in South Yorkshire and Derbyshire. The panel and board are chaired by the same person, the external examiner is a member of both, and panel recommendations concerning the quality of a student's practice are not overturned by the board, except in rare cases where the

Each appointment is, however, subject to the agreement of the appropriate chief officer, bearing in mind the substantial commitment of time required of panel members. Panel members meet regularly both in small groups and in plenary sessions: the purpose of the first is to reach decisions on pass/fail in respect of each student's performance in each placement; the purpose of the second is to advise both courses and agencies on the appropriate development of placement opportunities and on the future placement needs of individual students.

Recommendations from the panels are verbally submitted by panel representatives on the boards of examiners where they are normally endorsed without protracted discussion. The panel and board are chaired by the same person, the external examiner is a member of both, and panel recommendations concerning the quality of a student's practice are not overturned by the board, except in rare cases where the

board is reconvened to hear an appeal.

Members of the panel of professional advisers and other agency staff who contribute to teaching or research are, in the university, appointed by senate as honorary associates and are entitled to full use of the university's facilities. Any who wish to undertake part-time research for higher degrees – and, indeed, any practice teacher who wishes to register – are admitted on reduced fees. (There has been a gratifying increase in the number of practitioners registering for higher degrees.)

The polytechnic has two joint appointments with the South Yorkshire probation service and Sheffield local authority. The probation service's research officer holds a part-time appointment as a university lecturer with special responsibility for post-experience courses linked to probation research. And two senior workers in the local authority service teach in the university (as honorary lecturers) for one day a week, with reciprocal appointments of university staff to work in the authority.

The contribution of academic staff to agency policy making is, so far, less well developed in general terms. In the South Yorkshire probation service, however, academic staff from the polytechnic and university are closely associated with the chief officers' group, with research monitoring, and with a range of developmental and staff-training projects. In the neighbouring local authority so

far, association has been limited to specific issues rather than broadly and structurally based. (It is perhaps significant nationally that satisfaction with the quality of social work education is more frequently voiced by chief probation officers than by directors of social services; this may make local partnership easier to achieve.)

It is important to stress that partnership has not led to any loss of academic freedom in the control of course structure and content nor, in the one agency where relatively complete reciprocal partnership has been achieved, have managers felt that the academic presence has inhibited their authority. On the contrary, we have found that both tutors and managers have frequently valued the support of each other's interest and concern.

It is, however, essential to distinguish between genuine motivations to partnership and the spurious advocacy of partnership which merely disguises a desire to move the exercise of control. If the starting point of debate between courses and agencies is about who should control what, this is bound to be inimical to the promotion of partnership and to stand in the way of improvements in the quality of social work education and training. Questions of control are certainly important, but they are not a goal place to start.

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Architecture threatened with collapse

Tony Forward on the row that could still cause more architect student casualties

When the architectural events of the late 20th century come to be chronicled two landmarks are likely to stand out sharply: the notorious Roman Point housing disaster of 1968; and the undermining of the educational system which may yet culminate in an explosion rivaling that of Roman Point itself. What are the conflicting issues at stake in architectural education, and how can they be resolved?

By the beginning of the 1980s a number of the older members of the architectural profession were beginning to worry about the dearth of commissions reaching them, while in the public sector the local authority architects' offices were being weighed in the balance to see whether they should be retained, reduced or simply shut down. At the same time, Government eagerness for economies caused the DES to look keenly at courses which appeared to be unusually expensive to run.

The annual cost of teaching an architecture student is lower than for an engineering student, but almost all architecture courses last five years, as against three or four years for engineering. So not only is more teaching needed during the course, but architecture students normally receive a mandatory five-year grant.

Thus a coincidence of interest developed between some senior private practitioners on the one hand, and DES staff on the other. It was no great surprise when the National Advisory Body and University Grants Committee announced early in 1983 that they were setting up the first of the transitory reviews, with the task of looking into the provision of architectural education in the UK. A committee was duly formed under the chairmanship of Lord Esher, a former president of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The Esher Committee – or, as it became known – reported to the NAB and UGC in September 1984. The report ranges quite widely over the fields of education and practice, but is best remembered for its conclusion

that the architectural profession will inevitably grow to about 31,000 by the early 1990s – and will continue to grow unless drastic action is taken to control the numbers entering schools of architecture.

As a discipline architecture is unusual, in that students normally enter a polytechnic or university twice: first for a degree course (part 1) lasting three years; then, after a year's practical experience, for a graduate course (part 2) lasting two years. The Esher report recommended that there should be a reduction of about 15 per cent in the students entering at part 1, and 30 per cent in those entering for part 2. No individual schools were named, but it was suggested that the reduced numbers should be achieved by closing up to four schools, merging others and tripling numbers in the remainder.

At first sight the logic of Esher seemed impeccable: dilemma of reduced workload for architects, coupled with growing size of profession, therefore wield the educational axe, cut student numbers severely and aim to maintain the size of the profession at a steady 31,000 from the early 1990s onwards. But a closer look at the arguments reveals some serious flaws.

One of the largest groups of architects are those aged around 55 – experienced professionals who will be giving up practice at the very time the Esher proposals are due to take effect. There is other evidence, too, that the rate of outflow from the profession has been underestimated, but the most serious weakness of the Esher report lies in its failure to foresee the implications of the EEC directive on architectural qualifications.

In a sense it is unfair to blame Esher and his colleagues for leaving this out of their enquiries: negotiations over mutual EEC recognition of qualifications had been dragging on for so many years that their successful conclusion must still have seemed distant.

However, the directive was published in May this year and by August 1987 architects from any of the coun-



tries of the Community will be able to practice freely in the other member states. Only a fool would try to predict the scale of the architectural migrations which will ensue, or on which routes the movement will be most apparent. But whether the outcome of the directive is a net increase or decrease in the number of architects active in the UK, one result is clear: centralized planning of numbers is now a total absurdity. Market forces are certain to prevail.

This is not the only consequence, however, of the EEC directive. As

architectural courses in some of the member countries last only four years, it is likely that in this country there will be increasing pressure for four-year courses to become the norm. Should not DES, NAB, UGC and RIBA be concentrating their collective minds on this far-reaching challenge?

If one has intellectual respect for the work of the profession by the Esher committee, the same cannot be said of the report by the Architecture Intakes Working Party (AIWP). Prepared by a group of five persons, none of whom has any specialized

knowledge of architecture or architectural education, it claims to have applied four criteria to its consideration: quality, size, location and relationship with education provided in cognate professions. Yet even a brief examination of the recommendations proposed by the "quintet" shows a total dissonance with the stated criteria.

Most bizarre of all is annex 3, which lists 27 schools of architecture and gives target figures for intakes for each, at both part 1 and part 2 levels. Putting it positively, 17 schools are destined to grow at either the part 1 or part 2 level, and four schools to grow at both levels.

A student taking a part 1 course at school would have a 75 per cent chance of gaining a part 2 place, while in school there would be only a 44 per cent chance.

The worse aspect, however, is its lack of any real concern for quality. The report, though mentioning the word once, quickly adopts a mechanistic approach, recommends without any rationale the closure of three schools and the merging of others, as well as the highly dubious "target intakes" of annex 3.

It is to the credit of the Architects Registration Council of the United Kingdom (ARCUK) that when they considered the working party report in October this year they recognized its glaring weakness and rejected it *in toto*. There is a certain irony in the fact that ARCUK, the statutory body for architects, who might have been expected to support measures for controlling the numbers entering the profession, has rejected the report so decisively while the learned body, the RIBA, has behaved much more like a reactionary trade union and has fought hard, against increasing opposition from its own members, to maintain its present policy of establishing a rigid control of student numbers.

So what will happen now in this dismal episode in architectural education? It is too early to predict the final outcome of the conflict between those who subscribe, for whatever reason, to the creed of manpower planning, and those who believe in the greatest degree of choice in education.

Whatever arguments are mustered by the opposing forces, it is important to realize that this is not a conflict between educators and practitioners: it is a struggle between those who believe in centralized planning and those who believe in the greatest degree of choice in education.

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Richard Cobb

Back to the wall in the Temple of Belonging

I don't know just where or when the collectivization and the "proletarianization" of what had previously been – and, mercifully, still is, at least in this country – a pleasantly lonely profession could be dated from. My own guess would be that, like many other bad things – *les sciences humaines* and that sort of pretentious nonsense – it may have all started in France, reaching us a few years later.

The first time I encountered the bizarre combination of words was in Cien, generally thought to have been a sensible sort of place some time in the early 1930s. One of the professors there – he was not a Norman – a medievalist, had invited me to come and read a paper to some local history group. As far as I can remember, it was about the small port of Honfleur during the Thermidorian period.

The professor had a justified reputation for eccentricity among the *petit-bourgeois* of Honfleur. He had been involved in some violent activities with the local resistance. In one of these, a clerical night-watchman had been shot dead.

My host, denounced as he claimed by a colleague in the faculty, had been deported to Mauthausen, but had

He had two wives living under the same roof

survived. On his return, he had had a small bomb placed outside the house of his colleague. As well as being a learned scholar, he had a practical turn and liked to see the same in his pupils.

He had also founded a new political party which he called *le parti catholique-communiste*. I don't think it ever had many adherents. But the professor, who seems to have had a penchant for doubles – when I first met him, he had two wives living under the same roof, that is in his house – had sought the support of the Bishop of Bayeux and Lisieux who, unlike most other French bishops – I can only think of Saint-Pol and Léon – having had two wives might seem, in the eyes of the founder of the PCC, to carry double weight.

He had gone to see the bishop in his palace at Bayeux. The double-bishop, after listening politely to the self-proclaimed Catholic-Communist (in that order), had remained unmoved. There was to be no active support from the *évêché*. Nor were the local branches of the Communist Party much interested in the project.

I think that by the time I had turned up again in Cien – I had been there in different circumstances in July, 1944 – the *parti catholique-communiste* had been more or less abandoned. Its founder put down his name to the instinctive conservatism of *Beau-Normand*. But he was an enthusiast; and he had now turned his attention to another project, and one that, in this case, had actually already taken physical shape.

It was not something to be talked about though he talked about it throughout dinner – it had to be seen. We rather rushed through the excellent meal, cooked by the two wives (I do not know which one did which bit), putting down plenty of claret – the medievalist came from the south-west – before he took me off into the winter's night, I tripping over the still uneven pavements of the semi-ruined city.

Our destination turned out to be a long wooden hut which looked as if it had been put up either by the French army or by the *reconstruction* people. I had worked a few months previously in a similar building that housed the Archives de l'Alsace in Lahti those of

Le Havre had found temporary refuge in the stables of the *gendarmérie*. In Rouen, the Archives de la Seine-Inférieure could be found in the chapel of a maternity home for unmarried mothers.

In the 1950s, archival research took one into the oddest places. But this wooden building, its lights blazing from every window, did not contain any archives. Nor, it seemed, were the people who worked in it very much concerned with such old-fashioned items of the historian's "craft". For these were craftsmen, not researchers. On the front of the building, over the entrance, in bold painted letters was written *Atelier d'Histoire Bus-Normande*.

It was indeed a workshop, and even at this time of night, there seemed to be a great deal going on and there was plenty of noise: hammering, humming, sawing, cutting, whirring. A young woman, with plaster up to her elbows, was working on a scale model of the Orne estuary.

A male student was putting on the straw roof of a simple-storied Breton farmhouse, in wood and plaster. There were less than ten trays on shelves on the walls: huge geological cuttings of the cliffs near Honfleur in different colours. Primitive wooden ploughs and yokes, scythes and other agricultural instruments had never seen before hung from the ceiling.

Another girl was engaged in what looked like primitive basket-work. The whole corner was taken up by a huge steam-driven plumb of the type used, generally illegally, by the *bouillottes du cru*, for the making of calvados.

A small rodent and a very large fish were being stuffed. There were power-lights and the air was thick with fine dust. The busy inmates were wearing long leather aprons or white cotton coats and none down the front suggestive of medical associations. I think the name of the hut was later changed to *Laboratoire d'Histoire*, mirroring the *chef d'équipe's* latest enthusiasm.

The professor introduced me, rather ceremoniously – there was a clear, almost medieval hierarchy of rank within this working group – to each member of his team (he actually used the word *équipe*).

They all seemed to reflect his own enthusiasm. I suppose they had to. They told me that they were all

This was the only time I have ever been in a History Workshop

working on projects; these were chosen for them by the *grand patron*. One of them seemed quite shocked when I asked him if he ever worked in the Archives du Calvados. He was not concerned with that sort of history.

This was the only time I have ever been inside a History Workshop. But I have been the rather frightened observer of the activities of other semi-secret Temples of Belonging and revealed, from a respectful distance, a few of the Mysteries.

Once I attended, in the position of non-initiate – that is, standing, at a safe distance from the centre of the room with my back to the wall – the weekly Sunday morning meeting of the *Association Marc Bloch*.

Here I was then actually inside, though only a wallflower, and unwelcome even of a glance from any of the *chevaliers de la table ronde* (actually, as I have said, oblong), and with my own eyes seeing *Notes des Annales*.

Of course I had been vouchsafed a great privilege. Still I felt glad not to be fit to be included in the *notes*. Quite right too. I wasn't one of them. It was nice to get out into the street.

Adrian Furnham on how advertising conceals the tyranny of international air travel

Rest on your laurels.

Falling victim to the jet set

"In the unlikely event of depressurization . . ." continues the Blue-Peter-like, enthusiastic, pre-recorded voice while bored-looking, evenly tanned airline stewardesses go through their over-rehearsed routines like mechanical dolls with flat batteries.

It used to be at this point that the chit and the blase could be most clearly distinguished from the phobic, the naive or the occasional package traveller. The sophisticated, who would ostentatiously ignore their club-class steward with his clipping safety instruction card and the bemused sophisticated regular business traveller, now wants to know exactly where the emergency doors are; what kind of record of the airline and jet-type etc. After all, one should have the choice of being squashed in the front or burnt at the back.

The summer saw a minor panic – the more nervous and statistically naive even cancelled their flights. Yet for an increasing number of people the summer heralds the package holiday with the annual flight to the Mediterranean.

And for many the travel itself was uncomfortable involving long hours of waiting, sitting in cramped conditions, being shepherd around for no apparent reason and served with tasteless, barely edible food. There is no doubt that air travel is one of the least pleasant forms of journeying – a view paradoxically reflected in many airline advertisements.

These fall into two broad categories: the Big Lie approach vs the appeal of the Exotic Destination. The former clearly learned from Der Führer when he noted in *Mein Kampf*: "The broad mass of a nation will more easily fall victim to a big lie than to a small one". And hence instead of even approximating the truth they tell the even approximating – a whipping fib. The exotic destination theme is clearly technological, assuming that analysis of, and subsequent commitment to, the ends (the tropical destination) automatically generates effective or at least acceptable means to achieve it. Thus one ignores the means (of travel) and stresses the ends (the destination).

The big lie approach has numerous variants. Some advertisements stress the new wide, retracting, supportive (but not highly inflammable) seats that will be considered later than any other airlines. Some even detail the various aspects of the new, wide, retractable chair which bears a justifiable similarity to a dentist's chair.

Indeed a visit to the dentist and a flight have much in common – they are both expensive, painful, sterilized and aimed at reducing one to a passive, dependent incommunicative subject. Of course, one could argue that if God would have made us narrower.

A second variant of the big lie approach offers a hint of sex and seduction. Singapore Airlines and Cathay Pacific both attempt to persuade one that flight on one of their jets bears a close similarity to a massage parlour (possibly in Bangkok).

Of course I had been vouchsafed a great privilege. Still I felt glad not to be fit to be included in the *notes*. Quite right too. I wasn't one of them. It was nice to get out into the street.

Air Canada however take the prize for the big lie approach. Their advertisement

seems to imply that the passengers are having so much fun on board that when the plane lands they choose not to disembark to the terminal but to kick balloons erratically out of the door as a sign of having such fun from my experience the one of very many rules infringed by passengers is heading for the door while the plane is still taxiing to the destination terminal.

The exotic destination appeal makes no pretence that air travel is comfortable, sexy or fun. In fact it ignores all aspects of the flight, preferring to show people the outstanding (and usually wholly unrepresentative) features of the process of air travel. All that is bleached white beaches.

The occasional symbol of the cruise ship or the motorboat is also included. The advertisement for Air Canada is a good example. It shows a man in a tuxedo flying (usually the national) airline may indulge in the joys, sights, smells etc of the destination. No mention of free drinks, wide seats or sexy airline stewardesses here.

Why is airline travel so uncomfortable and unpleasant? The predominant reason is not the cost, the restricted space, the tasteless food, but because one becomes carefully institutionalized into a flying privatized prison. The term "total institution" was first used by the sociologist Erving Goffman in 1961 which referred to institutions like schools, prisons, mental hospitals, army camps etc which have rigid routines, block treatment and systems of depersonalization.

Consider the similarities between one such institution, prison, and flying in an aeroplane. First, one is deprived of one's possessions. Nearly all are inspected by x-ray and removed, sometimes never to be returned. One is thus left naked, helpless and deprived of the security of familiar, often practical objects.

Second, one is given a number. The depersonalizing process occurs right from the beginning – one may start off being passenger Smith, but more frequently the boarding card is one's number, one's identity. Very soon one is thought of as 17c – non-smoking, aisle seat, club class, paid-by-credit-card. The number is one's label, one's identity.

Third, one is strapped into one's seat. Apparently for one's safety and comfort – one may like to keep the belt on for the duration of the trip. Of course this limits mobility and access both of which are crucially important in every institution – for safety, of course.

Fourth in some parts of the world one is actually sanitized. I have been on jets where strange-looking health inspectors walk up and down the aisles thrusting spraying the faithful. Again, like delousing, this is for one's protection.

Fifth, meals are served to everybody at the same time there being often no choice. Ideally the meals are served for the convenience of the institution, not one is likely to receive meals at times, or indeed be deprived, of food that bears no relation to one's actual needs. Of course, everybody gets the same food (though much is made of what limited choice there is) in a strict

(often cost-of-seat) based on drinks are served much like a hospital or sleeping pills in a bag not for the comfort or indulgence of the travellers but the power of the staff.

Sixth, there are many rules imposed. They are not justified under the general banner of "lay own safety". They extend to standing, walking, defecating, smoking.

But most of all one must be obedient. The bureaucracy demands that one provide exact details of oneself. Before and after flight, but one is rarely given information about the flight itself.

On nearly every flight a captain tells one the speed and altitude of the aircraft, the weather conditions the title of the in-flight movie a range of other often trivial facts rarely related to the traveller's life. One often doubts that it is true. Doctors may be tempted not to tell anxious patient the whole (or in even part) of the truth so one suspects the captain and steward to be like to soothe, calm or to anxiety, or at least to palatability of the truth. All disaster and disaster movies support this point.

Second, the information one is given has been simplified to hard-of-hearing. It is patronizingly assumed that one's ability to understand mechanical, meteorological, bureaucratic problems is minimal that it should be left to experts.

I recall standing in Jersey with four colleagues (three had all been educated professionals) to get someone to tell us firstly flight was delayed; then we discovered the plane could not take off because of fog, how many times would take, whether there alternative flights, what meteorological prognosis was and took threats before this simple important information was allowed us to increase our own decision. Information is power and in an institutional environment one must be dependent and access to it.

To enter upon air travel then is to enter an institution where one is processed and de-individualized, to be passive and helpless and to be less than smilingly controlled by staff.

It is no accident that the words "enter" and "institution" are used for the two frequently co-occurring ideas: it is probably true to invent an alibi: it is better to arrive than travel hopelessly.

This incident proved the starting point of a controversy that raged for nearly a decade. As debate progressed, interest shifted from De Beche's problematic plant remains (which proved Carboniferous, after all, although in a way that no one had

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BOOKS

Steps in the creation of a consensus

by J. A. Secord

The Great Devonian Controversy: the shaping of scientific knowledge among gentlemanly specialists by Martin J. S. Rudwick University of Chicago Press, £36.75 ISBN 0226 73101 4

The sociologist Harry Collins has perceptively said that scientific knowledge is like a ship in a bottle: imagining how it got there seems impossible. There are surprisingly few studies that show how the trick has been accomplished – how the apparent permanence and objectivity of scientific knowledge is actually achieved in specific historical circumstances. A case history from early 19th-century geology, marks a significant step forwards in the empirical study of science in the making.

Rudwick has an established reputation as one of the outstanding historians of science in this country, and an international standing evidenced by his recent appointment to the chair in history of science at Princeton University. His previous book *The Meaning of Fossils* is a wide-ranging survey of the development of paleontology since the Renaissance. *The Great Devonian Controversy*, in contrast, focuses on a single episode and a brief period of time. Both studies break new ground, however, in developing methods for analysing the history of science. Like all of Rudwick's writing, they are marked by a vivid style, careful scholarship, and a willingness to draw conclusions of general relevance for the study of scientific knowledge.

The book (over 300 pages) may seem oddly out of proportion to the importance of its immediate subject. The "great Devonian controversy" is little known today, even to those with an interest in the history of 19th-century science. Geologists, of course, are familiar with the "Devonian system" as a major period in the early history of the Earth, part of the strata column memorized by every introductory student. But as the concept has become taken for granted as a working tool in science, the controversy that produced it has slipped out of the picture. The Devonian "ship", in other words, is now very securely in its scientific "bottle".

The dispute that marked its origins has been solved to the satisfaction of the major participants in a way that other, more familiar debates in the history of science have not. And this is precisely why the Devonian controversy is of signal importance, for it provides an ideal example for showing how a secure piece of science is created and becomes accepted.

Behind the simple label "Devonian" on modern geological charts is a story with all the complexity and intrigue of a modern detective novel. The setting is largely in England, although continental events are given an attention that is all too unusual in the history of science. The cast is primarily anonymous, what Rudwick terms the "gentlemanly specialists" of 19th-century geology, men who pursued science as a serious vocation, but without the pressures of a paid career. The story begins in 1834, when Henry De la Beche, just beginning a geological survey for the government, uncovered fossil plants in some of the very oldest rocks of south-west England.

The announcement of his finding to the Geological Society of London met with incredulity. For some, notably the wealthy Tory stratigrapher Roderick Murchison, the presence of fossil plants in such ancient strata was almost unthinkable. He believed that plant life had come into existence on Earth only during the much later Carboniferous period. De la Beche argued in return that the physical structure of Devonian fossils failed to support this interpretation. In his view, the presence of plants in the ancient rocks was as plain a fact as the nose on his face.

This incident proved the starting point of a controversy that raged for nearly a decade. As debate progressed, interest shifted from De Beche's problematic plant remains (which proved Carboniferous, after all, although in a way that no one had



Between 1852 and 1854, the comparative anatomist Richard Owen and the sculptor Waterhouse Hawkins produced several life-sized restorations of prehistoric animals for the grounds of the Crystal Palace exhibition centre. This engraving from David Norman's *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs* (Salamanca, £9.95) shows the dinner party organized inside the body of an *Iguanodon* to mark the completion of the task.

foreseen), to the even more anomalous "Culm" strata underlying them. Soon, not only the geology of England was involved, but also that of France, Germany, Russia and America. At stake were some of the major questions confronting early 19th-century geologists.

The ability of science to aid in uncovering the Earth's history. Participants ranged, from leading theorists like Charles Lyell to the Reverend David Williams, rector of Bleadon in Somerset, from the polymathic master of Trinity College, Cambridge, William Whewell, to the up-and-coming prodigy of the strata column, William Murchison. Unlike previous studies of scientific activity which have tended to focus on the research of a single individual (Charles Darwin, Isaac Newton, Claude Bernard), the book highlights the interactions among a small group.

How was a consensus finally achieved? Rudwick's account suggests that the opinions of a few mutually recognized authorities on the issue are what really mattered. In practice, the members of the "core set" (to use Collins's terminology) determine whether or not a specific problem in science is treated as having been solved. In the present case, for exam-

Getting the drift

New Views on an Old Planet: continental drift and the history of the Earth by Tjeerd H. Van Andel Cambridge University Press, £15.00 ISBN 0 521 30084 3

Until the late 1960s, the great majority of geologists believed that the position of the continents and oceans had been fixed since very early in the history of our planet. Wegener's revolutionary view, that the present continents had "drifted" apart from a primordial supercontinent within the past 200 million years, was widely dismissed as the idea of a crank. The situation changed dramatically as a result of research in the emergent field of geophysics, leading to the theory of plate tectonics, which postulates that tectonic activity in the Earth's outer shell, the lithosphere, is restricted to a small number of narrow zones within more stable plates, which can move laterally with respect to each other.

That theory, which led to the general acceptance of continental drift, has stimulated an enormous amount of work in a whole series of research fields, many of them involving quite complex technology. With this expo-

lance, Murchison's proposal that the "Culm" strata belonged to the "Devonian" – a new geological system sandwiched between the Carboniferous above and the Silurian below – eventually commanded assent from Lyell and other geologists. Once these political boundaries had been agreed, the rest of the scientific community rapidly fell into line. The controversy was over.

The narrative that explains how all this occurred, though complex, is engagingly constructed and will be accessible to a wide range of non-specialist readers. The author relentlessly follows the month-by-month process of debate, dispute and day-laboration that ultimately issued in new scientific knowledge. The result is *"histoire événementielle"* with a vengeance – and, emphatically, with a purpose. In the study of the formation of a consensus in science, Rudwick argues that historians must pay close attention to the precise temporal order of events: the process must be followed step-by-step, "microscopically" and with the absolute minimum of forward reference. Only after the participants agree that a consensus has been achieved can the historian look back, safely "beyond the earshot of the natives", and employ whatever analy-

tical tools are required. Clearly, at some level, narrative methods are essential for picturing science (or anything else, for that matter) in the making. At the same time, Rudwick's "historical" microscope is open to objections commonly raised against similar techniques in history. In particular, the focus on immediacy tends to obscure the significance of larger issues like class, religion, career-making and politics. While Rudwick deals sensitively with many of these matters, the overwhelming emphasis is on small-scale negotiations within the scientific community. His concluding discussion of the "compatibilities" between science and the wider culture of early Victorian England could certainly be taken much further. In this, Rudwick's own work on historical analogies in the writings of Charles Lyell might well serve as a model.

The sheer authority of Rudwick's scholarship, combined with the separation of narrative and analysis, gives the story he tells something of its own "ship-in-the-bottle" quality. I wonder, for example, whether the shift in geological theory involved in the Devonian dispute – an increased emphasis on an ecological interpretation of Earth history – is quite so marked as he makes out. And I

leading on to a discussion of evolution and extinction, through the course of the Phanerozoic (approximately the past 600 million years), touched on here is the "neo-catastrophist" challenge to the conventional uniformitarian doctrine of Charles Lyell, which has influenced so many generations of geologists.

This doctrine, often expressed rather tritely as "the present is the key to the past", emphasizes the gradualistic nature of physical and biological processes on Earth and plays down the importance of dramatic, large-scale changes operating over comparatively short time periods. Our current reading of Earth history, however, leads many to infer the existence of long periods of stability interrupted at intervals by profound disturbances that might reasonably be termed, in extreme instances, catastrophic.

Van Andel writes attractively, jargon-free prose and has a gift for presenting the essence of complex subject-matter with simplicity and clarity. As this book is also authoritative, representing the distillation of many years of sage thought, I can recommend it to the non-specialist who wants to know something of the current state of our knowledge of the history of the Earth.

Anthony Hallam
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record of climatic fluctuations during the past few hundred years, he extends back progressively to deal with larger-scale changes that can be discerned from the stratigraphic record over many millions of years and discusses the possible causes of recurrent ice ages.

In the next chapter Van Andel presents the evidence that has persuaded a consensus of Earth scientists of the reality of plate tectonics. Unlike some earlier reviews, however, he is able to view it within the perspective of subsequent complicating anomalies which have somewhat disturbed the elegant simplicity of the original theory. Indeed, he wonders whether the time has come for some serious amendments. He turns next to the major subject of the history of the ocean; how changes recorded in the continental margins have acted as a gauge for sea-level changes in the past; and how an interaction of sea-level change and continental movement may be related to the appearance and disappearance through long periods of geological time of polar ice caps.

Only now does the author feel that the reader is in a position to delve into the mysteries of the Precambrian, taking us progressively through a discussion of the birth of the solid Earth, the growth of continents, and the origin of the oceans and atmosphere. His book culminates in an account of the biosphere, starting with the evi-

dent evidence that the Devonian really was by the mid-1840s; curiously, Rudwick does not mention a second (albeit much shorter) Devonian controversy later in the century that called the entire concept into question. On a wider plane, there can be little doubt that the crucial notion of a geological "system" has undergone important transformations since the early Victorian period. Although these later changes are largely outside the scope of this book, they clearly have consequences for Rudwick's account of the close of the dispute.

The *Great Devonian Controversy* is one of the first in a new generation of books that makes full use of the rich archival sources for 19th-century science. Particularly valuable are the vast quantities of personal letters, which in pre-penny post days had to prove their worth to a paying recipient. The result is an unusually lively picture of an earlier era, with much of the interest of a historical novel about science. Although all of the material is not immediately required for the analysis in the two concluding chapters, few will wish it very much shorter.

These final chapters raise some central questions facing the sociology of knowledge and the philosophy of science. Taking issue with Collins and others who have argued that science is so essentially a social construct that its analysts can set aside the differentiating effects of the natural world, Rudwick writes that the Devonian was (and is) "a thoroughly social construction" that simultaneously provides a "reliable representation" of nature. Really constrains interpretation, but does not determine it. If Rudwick's account leaves the character of that constraint slightly ambiguous (and I suspect that even the most ardent advocates of social construction would find nothing to which they could object in the narrative core of the book), the discussion clearly raises major interpretative issues. Certainly, it would be no bad thing if a well-documented case like the Devonian assumed a role in debates about scientific knowledge that all too often have focused on a limited number of highly problematic examples. In any event, the Devonian controversy will henceforth be "great" not only to the gentlemanly geologists of the early 19th century, but to any reader who has the pleasure of engaging with this beautifully written and challenging book.

BOOKS

Unequal before the law

Sexual Divisions in Law
by Katherine O'Donovan
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16.95 and
£8.95
ISBN 0 297 78664 4 and 78665 2

Sexual Divisions in Law is not a law book, but a book about law. For the benefit of those unfamiliar with the distinction, Katherine O'Donovan explains that while a law book sets out simply to declare the law on a particular matter, a book about law is concerned more with discussion and criticism of its chosen subject.

This having been made clear at the outset, it should come as no surprise that O'Donovan does not attempt an

orderly or systematic exposition of the many areas of law in which a distinction is made between men and women. Instead, in the author's own words, a "certain political thesis" is advanced. Broadly stated, this thesis is that legal differentiation between men and women is critically related to the division between what is perceived as public (and therefore the law's business), which is particularly associated with men's lives, and what is perceived as private (and therefore unregulated) which is particularly associated with women's lives. The root of inequality of the sexes lies, according to O'Donovan, in the dichotomy between private and public and the clash of values involved.

In developing and expanding upon this hypothesis, the author examines a wide range of legal and social issues. These issues are not discussed in any particular order, but to complain about this is perhaps to criticize the author for failing to do something which she does not attempt. More seriously however, the standard of writing and analysis varies considerably. Some topics are dealt with in considerable detail and reveal thorough research and a certain amount of original thought on the part of the author. Into this category there falls, for example, the discussion of legal

definitions of sex and the problems which arise in applying these definitions to transsexuals. O'Donovan's criticisms of the essentialist approach to sex determination, exemplified in the celebrated English case of *Corbett v Corbett*, and advocacy of an alternative cluster-concept approach, are particularly impressive. Also well written is the section of the book dealing with taxation, where it is argued that the principles underlying current tax law reinforce a view of marriage not as a partnership of equals but as a unit represented and headed by the husband.

The treatment of some important topics is, however, disappointing. The importance of social security law to the book's subject cannot adequately be represented in the space of six pages. Further, in discussing marital rape, the impression is given that total immunity exists: "Examination of the criminal law presumption of consent granted through marriage which cannot be revoked reveals that no matter how serious the wife's injuries, conviction for rape is not possible." This may once have been the case, but the law is no longer as clear cut and the immunity is now subject at least to important exceptions, for example in cases of judicial separation and possibly also where a husband and wife have agreed

to separate. It must also be said that while O'Donovan's central theme, linking the inequality of the sexes to the dichotomy between private and public is set out clearly in the opening section, her line of reasoning in expanding upon this argument is often difficult to follow. In discussing prostitution for instance, her contention that as a result of certain 19th-century legislation "the social identity which had not previously existed, the prostitute, was constructed" seems scarcely justified by the arguments advanced and requires greater elaboration.

Sexual Divisions in Law is an ambitious undertaking: perhaps too ambitious to be successfully accomplished in a mere two hundred pages. That the author has a number of good ideas is clear, and several passages in the book are well researched, well written and sure to provoke discussion. However, the defects in the book are equally clear, and ultimately O'Donovan does not succeed in drawing her ideas together to form a coherent whole.

Douglas Ross

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Appliance of science

Punishment and Welfare
by David Garland
Cower, £19.50
ISBN 0 566 08855 0

In its own self-conception "scientific criminology" was born out of a remarkable piece of serendipity by a doctor examining a brigand's skull in an Italian prison. In his own words what came to Lombroso was "a mere idea, but a flash of intuition". At the sight of that skull, second to see all of a sudden, light up as a vast plain under a flaming sun, the problem of the nature of a criminal. Obviously there is no more to it than that, but until as there has been no adequate social and analysis of the birth of positive criminological "science", whose influence although grossly diminished is not yet disappeared.

One of the important contributions of Garland's impressive book is its sophisticated, subtle and complex unravelling of the discursive, political and social conditions of existence of this remarkable construction of a new form of "knowledge", the "scientific" dissection of evil. Garland indicates the resistance of the criminological programme with other currents in the human sciences, its appeal to a spectrum of political viewpoints, right and left, and its utility for interestingly influential social groupings - psychiatrists, Christian humanitarian associations, and the new professional and intellectual classes more generally. It developed interdependently with other techniques and ideas in the broader response to the control problems of the turn of the 20th century.

It is in the analysis of these currents that the major contribution of Garland's work lies. The book is a significant work of the highest quality of work. It is a work of the history of punishment and social control in industrial society.

The first, to be found in the work of Foucault himself, identifies a progressive unfolding of the idea and practice of discipline centring on the prison as a technique of transforming the criminal's nature (his distinct from punishing his act). The second approach is the further shift of direction since the late 1960s, with discipline diffused throughout society with the advent of the myriad varieties of community corrections so lovingly chronicled by Cohen and Seuff.

Garland argues for the significance of another break, around the turn of the 20th century, which created the modern form of penitentiary "the whole of the penal complex, including its sanctions, institutions, discourses and representations". Victorian penitentiary owed more to classical conceptions of punishment as just desert than to disciplinary project in Foucault's sense. Modern penitentiary, centred on precise "scientific" classification of offenders, techniques of rehabilitation, and a merging with broader forms of "welfare" and "corrections", developed only at the end of the Victorian era, and remains dominant although challenged by the revival of more Victorian view of punishment in the 1970s. The fundamental core of existence for modern penitentiary is the movement from free-market corporate capitalism, with its concomitants of mass democracy as an interventionist state. But in no specific ideological and institutional sources were the associated programmes of reform offered by criminology. The varying discourses and vocabularies of these movements are analysed in detail, and their consequences in penitentiary traced.

This book is of enormous value in illuminating the development of social control in modern times. But it is written in an unimpeachably abstract and jargon-laden style, which is both a strength and a weakness. It is a book that is not for the casual reader. There are two tantalizing hints of the analysis of the possibility of new forms of penal regulation that accord with the values of social equity, democracy and welfare. But it stands such claims as a masterpiece.

Robert Reiner

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BOOKS

A poet's business mind

Catullus and his World: a reappraisal
by T. P. Wiseman
Cambridge University Press, £19.50
ISBN 0 521 26606 8

Most books which combine history and literary analysis make a parade of their interdisciplinary virtue; this one gets on with the job without fuss. Disarmingly readable, and with many a neat turn of phrase, it is a valuable study of Catullus and his time, full of shrewdness and common sense, sometimes subtle, sometimes provocative.

Wiseman begins by emphasizing the otherness of the Roman world, "a world not ours"; the point is made with typical clarity and concision. Here he is in tune with present fashion, though the warning is still needed: some scholars go on thinking that all Latin poets were social democrats. Less fashionable is his confidence in reconstructing the intrigues, political and amorous, of the time. He is sceptical of some received opinions - particularly welcome is his attack on schematic accounts of the rise and fall of Catullus' love affair. But he has invested in the reconstruction business himself: we have sparkling pictures of Clodia Metelli and M. Caecilius, and anyone who has tried to peer through the magnificent smokescreen that Cicero put up in the *Pro Caelio* will be grateful for Wiseman's dashing chapter on the subject.

As Wiseman himself shows, scholars and critics have depicted various Catulluses.

Bowdlerism (Pennyton) started that 'one' has yielded place to a man revelling in a "self-consciously permissive obscenity" to borrow Wiseman's phrase for some recent translations. His own Catullus has the soul of a businessman, he adds, is an excellent thing to have (let us hope Sir Keith Joseph is listening). He presents the poet as a provincial equestrian family with financial interests in the eastern Mediterranean, inheriting a puritan morality from his upbringing and ill at ease in the promiscuous world of his patrician mistress. In the kiss poem ("Give me a thousand kisses, then a hundred") we catch an account of the poet's tones, and in the language of honour and obligation which Catullus paradoxically applies to his illicit love affair we hear a businessman's respect for the law of contract. This last point is especially interesting: Wiseman warns that we risk putting too much weight on "conspicuous" sources material like Cicero and Catullus himself; the common supposition that Catullus is applying to his affair the language of high politics may be an example of this unconscious bias.

Wiseman announces that he will preach some heresies; the orthodox will be surprised by his account of Catullus' lost works. We know that there was a writer of "mines" (that is, bawdy farces with topical and satirical content) of uncertain date called Catullus; some have thought that he was the same as a Valerius, apparently a mime-writer, mentioned by Cicero in a letter. Wiseman suggests that both these figures are identical with our poet, C. Valerius Catullus. This means supposing that the bulk of his work was mime, and yet none of our sources has thought to tell us so, which is possible, but unlikely. On the other hand, Wiseman argues forcefully that the lost poem in the extant collection implies that the poet intends to move on to a new genre of verse, vituperative in character - mime perhaps? Wiseman has put his finger on an awkward problem. An odder heresy is the idea that the *Attis* was written for a religious festival, the Megalesia. Wiseman has the historian's eagerness to find occasions for poems; but the *Attis* does not have the air of occasional poetry.

The book ends with a chapter on the *haute vulgarisation* of Catullus by translators, poets and novelists. It is a bit patchy, though everyone will find some titbit that he did not know before. It can best be regarded as a light coda to a fine work.

Richard Jenkyns

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More than facts

Ancient History: evidence and models
by M. I. Finley
Chatto & Windus, £12.95
ISBN 0 7011 3003 2

By Mary Beard and Michael Crawford
Duckworth, £15.00 and £5.95
ISBN 0 7156 1900 4 and 1969 1

Both these important books are concerned with the methods and objectives to be followed by ancient historians; they are practical and deal with specific problems, touching on the more abstract parts of historiography only here and there.

Finley has developed and added to some of the ideas which he has mooted in earlier papers and books. His new book displays the admirable familiarity with a wide range of issues that we have come to expect from the analysis of land and credit and the historian of Odysseus, Sicily and the ancient economy. Throughout the discussions the reader has the exhilarating sense that no single theme is self-contained, that other related problems and ideas are likely to break in at any moment.

The gist of the book is given in the epilogue. Finley argues against the idea that the historian can be a self-effacing objective, confining himself to a discussion of the ancient evidence without ideology taken in the broadest sense as "a system of ideas concerning phenomena, especially those of social life". He is therefore particularly severe on the claims made by and on



A volute relief from Brauron depicting Zeus (seated) with Leto and her children Apollo and Artemis. The picture is from John Boardman's *Greek Sculpture: the classical period* (Thames and Hudson, £12.50).

behalf of Leopold von Ranke and considers that faith in Ranke's self-effacement does not reflect Ranke's practice and is no guide to the world he calls the profit-motive and examines the course of wars between Greek states with that in mind.

Finley's polemic is fair, but occasionally he reminds me of the distinguished scholar who was eventually required to examine in finals; when his marks were displayed it became clear that a candidate is as bad as his worst mistake. The incautious or inexperienced reader of this book may well get the idea that some historians are on parade not to receive a prize but to get a wiggling and a delta. For example, the achievements of Fergus Millar and G. E. M. de Ste Croix are not recognized as they might be. Millar is rebuffed for his claim that he has not "contaminated" his presentation of the evidence with preconceptions drawn from wider sociological studies; and de Ste Croix's use of his model in *Class Struggle in Ancient Society* fails to say anything of importance about war. Yet even without such ideology Millar's book *The Emperor and the Roman World* does much to explain how things worked; and de Ste Croix has written the most remarkable book on ancient history to appear for many years.

A similar concern with structure pervades Beard and Crawford's account of the late Roman Republic. They assume that the reader has an outline knowledge of the basic facts and do not offer an account of day-to-day or year-by-year developments. Instead they seek to provide an "analytical description". To demonstrate how a whole network of factors are closely interlinked. They have produced a book which is clear and trenchant and helps to make sense of the welter of

facts. There are chapters on culture, religion, politics and institutions, and Rome and the outside world. The order is important, for the authors are rightly determined to move culture and religion into greater prominence, away from the appendage position to which they are so often relegated. The chapter on religion gives a vigorous analysis of recent attempts to escape from the habit of seeing late Roman religion in terms of decline and neglect. Overall the coverage of subjects is good though one would have welcomed a section on the general importance of Roman archaizing and conservatism.

The authors admit they have their favourite topics, but they are usually fair in pointing to alternative views, often in the notes. There are a few places where the exposition in the text has been perhaps too brief. Thus, much is made of Cicero's philosophical writings, but it would have been easy to say a few words on the possible case against them. One might argue that Cicero's eclecticism is not philosophically interesting though it deserves attention for its opportunism; and further that it is questionable whether his rhetorical eclecticism is wholly suited to this subject. Similarly the book is rather sweeping on topography and ideology; the former is out, the latter is in. But nothing is said about important Roman slogans, which is to carry too far their programme statement that "it is impossible now to understand the first century BC in first-century terms".

A. E. Wardman

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Movement of people

European Immigration Policy: a comparative study
edited by Tomas Hammar
Cambridge University Press, £30.00
ISBN 0 521 26326 3

International migration can seldom be understood other than in an international context. So self-evident is the proposition that one would blush to utter it, were it not for the persistent tendency of the authors of governmental papers, articles in the press and even scholarly studies to deal with questions of immigration upon a national basis.

The experience of Great Britain in the 20 years ensuing from 1955 is in many respects unique, but it is not so radically different from that of France or Switzerland (or even Kuwait or Venezuela) that no advantage could be gained in emulating those countries' achievements or avoiding their errors. More than half a century has elapsed since J. L. Briery warned us of the danger of addressing the question of immigration unilaterally: the problem of immigration will not be dealt with in 'the international mind' until nations have begun to realize that the same economic facts which create a problem of immigration for one may create a problem of emigration for another. His warning has been insufficiently heeded. For the reason alone, Tomas Hammar's collection of essays is welcome, dealing as it does with the policies of six West European countries which have been transformed into countries of immigration.

Nearly three quarters of the book is occupied by six essays dealing separately with the experiences of Sweden, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland. The six countries were chosen partly because of their size and that of their immigrant populations and partly because they offer a high degree of variation in the regulation of immigration. Germany and Switzerland seek to operate the "guest worker" system of aliens' control; the United Kingdom and Sweden maintain systems designed, at least originally, for the purposes of a selective system of controlling permanent immigration; while France and the Netherlands maintain intermediate policies. All experienced substantial immigration in the two decades ending in 1975 and sought to reduce it progressively towards the end of that period and to control it sharply since about 1975. Three of the countries examined have experienced substantial immigration from former dependencies outside Europe and all six have received immigrants from the periphery of the subcontinent; usually in response to the attraction of industry, including construction and services, for workers from countries with an agricultural base. The last category embraces the migration of Portuguese and Turkish workers in Germany, Moroccans to the Netherlands, Spaniards, Italians, Yugoslavs and Turks to Switzerland, Algerians and Tunisians to France,

Finns to Sweden and the Irish to Britain.

The six "national" essays are contributed by social scientists (mainly sociologists) engaged in universities from the appropriate states. The essays follow a common pattern, dealing in turn with immigration and immigration policy, "general preconditions" (the geographical, economic and demographic background), immigration regulation and control, immigrant policy (including economic aid to areas where immigrants are concentrated, and general race relations), police-line and administration and "lessons". To a substantial extent, the essays follow a consistent style, characterized by reserve in expression and an effort to substantiate each generalization with legal or statistical data.

The legal information set out in these essays maintains a high standard of accuracy. (One has to forgive a few infelicities of expression, such as the sentence on page 100 stating that "the British Nationality Act of 1981" - that Commonwealth citizens are no longer automatically British citizens as well". Einstein's theory of relativity is more easily comprehended than the British Nationality Act.) It is not for information about foreign immigration law that this book will be used, however, but rather for the statistical analysis, some of which leads to surprising conclusions. For instance, the authors of the German report argue convincingly that the halting of recruitment of *Gastarbeiter* in 1973 actually brought about an increase in the foreign population and changed its composition through an increase in family migration. They conclude that the first generation can no longer be considered as "guest workers".

Forgotten victims

Victims in the Criminal Justice System
by Joanna Shipland, Jon Willmore and Peter Duff
Cower, £18.50 and £8.95
ISBN 0 566 00894 7 and 00877 7

Although the victim is often described as "the forgotten man of the criminal justice system", in recent years he has become a notable subject for research. There is even a journal called *Victimology*, and many are the books that have been written about him. Who, the latest book tells us is how the victims of crimes feel about the criminal justice system. A group of 276 people who had been robbed, battered, raped or assaulted were visited at intervals as the cases against their attackers progressed, and asked whether they were satisfied with what was going on. The authors found that although most of the victims were very pleased with the promptness, sympathy and efficiency of the police when they first arrived, many became increasingly disappointed with criminal justice as the case went on, and a few became so fed up that they said they would not bother to report the offence another time. These findings are obviously important, because the



The final quarter of the book, which contains Tomas Hammar's comparative analysis, is devoted less to the imparting of information than to the extrapolation of conclusions. Some of these are controversial. He contends that the economic downturn following the oil crisis merely initiated a change of immigration policy that would have to have occurred in any event, because of the socioeconomic conditions that have made immigration and emigration. The Netherlands and the United Kingdom, in his view, had less demand for immigrant labour than the other countries examined; and particularly the United Kingdom where economic growth was less rapid. It is for this reason, among others, that the control of immigration has been less closely linked to the economy. Migration from

former and present dependencies has tended, in Professor Hammar's assessment, to be more permanent than other forms of migration. The immigration policies of the six countries examined have tended to converge, particularly by reason of the inadvertent admission of permanent immigrants by states with guest worker systems. The task ahead is to provide a decent standard of living for immigrant minorities and this will succeed only if further immigration is limited and illegal entry effectively stopped.

Richard Plender

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neighbours, a garbled account in the local paper, or a threat of future vengeance from the defendant or his mates.

Victims also feel very strongly that their attacker should be made to pay them at least some compensation; yet compensation orders were not made in many cases in this study where they could have been made, apparently because it was nobody's job to ask the court to make them, and nobody's job to collect details of the victim's losses should the court think of making one unasked. Even when a compensation order is made, some courts do not inform the victim, and others routinely make him wait for several months before paying over the money they have received.

Unlike many problems in the legal system which are quite intractable, most of the complaints of these 276 victims could be cured by small changes of routine which would cost little in either time or money. Most of the difficulties stem from the fact that it is nobody's job to keep in touch with the victim and explain things to him, and it is nobody's job because, at present nobody except the victim thinks he matters. What is really needed is a change of attitude.

J. R. Spencer

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Turning point

Intellectual Life in the Late Roman Republic
by Elizabeth Rawson
Duckworth, £35.00
ISBN 0 7156 1968 3

"We read Cicero and Lucretius; we also read Catullus, Caesar . . . and Sallust; and we tend to know far too little of the intellectual, as opposed to the political, background of these writers", writes Miss Rawson in her preface. Their period is of crucial importance, for it marked the turning-point in Roman history. This is obvious politically, obvious too in literary history, but nevertheless we have until now lacked a thorough scholarly study of the intellectual life of the period. Miss Rawson's densely packed and immensely detailed book is a masterpiece.

She points out that, in talking of the first century BC, we happily use phrases such as "Graeco-Roman civilization",

"increasing orientalization", "the dominating influence of Stoicism", "the practical Roman mind", and she brings together and elucidates the mass of evidence which needs to be evaluated before these "glib generalizations" can be properly tested. It is no easy task; few of the books which she discusses actually survive complete, and our knowledge of their authors is often equally sketchy.

The first part of the book deals with the conditions of intellectual life, in Italy as well as Rome, with the origin (often of course Greek), status and economic position of intellectuals in different fields, their intended audience, and the availability of books and other sources of knowledge, and ends with a chapter entitled "Towards Public Patronage", which deals with Atticus (a typically deft assessment in four pages), Pompey and Caesar. Its last sentence is characteristically challenging: "the way was now open to imperial patronage, though perhaps no emperor was ever so intellectually serious as Caesar".

The second part of the book deals with the liberal arts, in 13 chapters which cover subjects as diverse as *grammatica*, medicine, architecture, geography, and theology, and add up to a kind of encyclo-

lopedia of intellectual activities. The dominating figure in the book is, of course, Cicero, but Miss Rawson eschews direct confrontation with his achievement, on the grounds that she has often been assessed. However, her thorough and sympathetic familiarity with his writings enables her to use them as her principal source, and one of the most remarkable features of her book is the way it makes it possible to appreciate Cicero's intellectual standing in relation to that of his contemporaries. The next most striking figure is Varro, celebrated for his immense learning, but also the author of humorous Menippean satires, though unfortunately only a comparatively small amount of his work survives. Miss Rawson gives a detailed and perceptive account of his achievements (references to him in the index cover more than one whole column) but even so he remains somewhat enigmatic.

She writes clearly and concisely, and shows constant good sense. Her broad sympathies include a keen interest in the visual arts and in topography, which together with her very sense of humour help to give life to what might otherwise be an indigestibly dry and overvalued account. This is often shown in her neat summaries, for

example, Diodorus Siculus on the feasts of the Gauls - "where warriors are touched on points of precedence (symbolized in special pieces of meat), and even issue challenges to mortal combat, they use no chairs, and on their helmets the moustaches in the food". Sometimes she notes a comic detail - Statius Scaevola telling how blue worms forty cubits long in the Ganges grip elephants' trunks and drag them into the river; Nigidius Figulus recommending that one should clap a hen to a snake-bite; Philodemus describing the gods as "clusters of insomniac hellenophone gourmets in the illimitable distance".

A period in which scholars could argue, as did Aristodemus of Nysa, that Homer was a Roman, or could, like Alexander Polyhistor, replace Moses with a lady named Mosca, provides plenty of scope for such entertainment. However, what is especially striking is the way in which Miss Rawson, along with a cool head, has such a warmly sympathetic understanding for the intellectual efforts of her huge and diverse cast, and for the problems they had to contend with in their scholarly activities, which meant that even the young Cicero, when translating the Greek

poet Aratus, imported errors which could have been avoided had he "gone into his garden to check".

Considering the complexity of the material, the production of the book is remarkably accurate. It is not often that one is left puzzled, as on page 202, where we are told that Cicero claims that Pompey had great knowledge of "treaties, agreements, pacts with states, kings and foreign peoples, in fact the whole law of peace and war", and the footnote mentions "numerous *libelli* on mindsets and party walls". The index is comprehensive and apparently accurate.

This book will surely remain a standard work for many years to come. Miss Rawson deserves the thanks of all those who feel properly grateful for the immense labour that has gone into it, and they may well hope that the old Latin goddess Penelope, "invoked by tired people" (page 315), will be kind to her.

Peter Howell

Peter Howell is lecturer in classics at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College.

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NOTICE BOARD



The Carlsberg Automatic Meridian Circle is one of the specialized telescopes that has been contributing to the Giotto mission to Halley's comet next March. The CAMC measures the positions of over 300 reference stars which will allow controllers at the European Space Agency to make sure that the space craft passes sufficiently close to the comet nucleus to get the information required. (Picture courtesy of the Science and Engineering Research Council.)

Honorary degrees

The Royal Northern College of Music is to award honorary fellowships to Mr Eli Goren, the violinist and conductor and to Mr John Hosler, principal of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London. The college is also to confer honorary memberships on Mr Peter Moores, patron of the arts; Mr Clive Smart, general



manager of the Hallé Orchestra; and Sir John Tooley (above), general director of the Royal Opera Company. Bath University will confer the honorary degree of master of science on Mr James Nisbet, principal associate of James Nisbet and Partners, chartered quantity surveyors.

Events

The International Society of Education Conference is to be held at Westhill College, Birmingham, on January 2, 3 and 4. The subject is to be Teachers, Policy and Education. For full details, contact Administrative Office, International Society of Education Conference, P.O. Box 25, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3UB.

Awards

The Medical Research Council, in association with the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, has set up an exchange scheme for research visits from the UK to spend a period in a French laboratory. For full details of the scheme, please contact The Telling Awards Group, Medical Research Council, 20 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AL (telephone 01 636 542 2274).

Professor David Williams, head of the department of applied chemistry at UNIST, has been awarded a Silver Medal by the Royal Society of Chemistry for his work in trace element chemistry.

Grants

LEICESTER
Professor F. Beck, £13,851 from Unilever (in vitro techniques relevant to teratology); Dr R. F. Jameson, £37,482 from SERC (infrared and optical observations of pulsating stars); Professor J. J. Higgins, £150,000 from DTI (yeast biotechnology, replication and secretion); Professor W. V. Shaw and Dr G. C. K. Roberts, £238,000 from SERC (high field NMR studies of protein structure); Professor W. V. Shaw and Dr G. C. K. Roberts, £177,970 from Wellcome Trust (biomedical NMR spectroscopy); Dr D. R. Crickley and Dr I. C. Eperon, £39,542 from MRC (molecular cloning of the genes for the cytoskeletal protein vimentin); Dr T. M. Harrison and Professor W. J. Brown, £56,610 from SERC (production of processed protein in cultured myeloma cells); Dr C. W. Jones, £10,000 from SERC (production by growing and non-growing micro-organisms); Dr D. R. Crickley and Dr J. M. Varley, £20,844 from Cancer Research Campaign (study of cancer progression in solid and breast carcinomas using in situ hybridization); and £16,559 from Cancer Research Campaign (tyrosine-specific phosphorylation of vinculin and the morphology of normal and Rous sarcoma virus transformed cells); Professor W. V. Shaw and Professor W. J. Brown, £15,480 from SERC (synthetic oligonucleotides for in vitro genetic studies); Dr I. C. Eperon, £12,083 from Cancer Research Campaign (in vitro studies of effect of ionizing radiation on protein and DNA in presence and absence of oxygen and of various additives); Professor H. Simpson, £29,040 from Nat. Medical Research Fund (development of methods to assess gas mixing and exchange in the lung); Professor G. Norman, £20,769 from SERC (fundamental approaches to life cycle costing); Dr M. D. Schilling, £45,450 from BLRD (schools PROLOG information retrieval); and Professor H. C. MacGregor, £11,865 from SERC (application of DNA fingerprint technology to studies of avian behaviour).

Appointments

Cranfield School of Management has appointed Professor Andrew Kalabadeas as head of the human resources group.

The Secretary of State for Education and Science has appointed Mr Robert Horton to the Science and Engineering Research Council in succession to Sir Francis Tombs.

The Secretary of State for Education and Science has appointed Dr Carol Jordan, of Somerville College, Oxford, to the SERC. Dr Jordan fills the seat vacated by Professor Bill Mitchell, who steps up to chairmanship.

Publications

In the wake of this year's inner city disturbances, the department of town planning at South Bank Polytechnic has produced a timely seasonal paper *Government Action and the Residential Environment: A Case Study of Wandsworth*, written by Dr Patricia Roberts. The paper is available, price £3 post free from Department of Town Planning, South Bank Polytechnic, Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2ZZ.

Promotions

LEICESTER
Senior lecturer Dr Gordon D. Lang (obstetrics and gynaecology).
KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON (KOC)
Senior lecturer Dr Edward Lightowler (physics).
Readership Dr Colin Bushnell (pure mathematics); Dr James Heale (plant pathology); Dr Anthony Warren (geography); Dr Peter West (applied mathematics).

Chairs

King's College, London (KOC) has announced the appointment of the Rev. John Ward as professor of history and philosophy of religion; Professor Ward was formerly the Frederick Denison Maurice professor of moral and social theology at the college. At the same time, Dr Francis Cox has been appointed professor of parietal immunology.

LEICESTER
Professor F. Beck, £13,851 from Unilever (in vitro techniques relevant to teratology); Dr R. F. Jameson, £37,482 from SERC (infrared and optical observations of pulsating stars); Professor J. J. Higgins, £150,000 from DTI (yeast biotechnology, replication and secretion); Professor W. V. Shaw and Dr G. C. K. Roberts, £238,000 from SERC (high field NMR studies of protein structure); Professor W. V. Shaw and Dr G. C. K. Roberts, £177,970 from Wellcome Trust (biomedical NMR spectroscopy); Dr D. R. Crickley and Dr I. C. Eperon, £39,542 from MRC (molecular cloning of the genes for the cytoskeletal protein vimentin); Dr T. M. Harrison and Professor W. J. Brown, £56,610 from SERC (production of processed protein in cultured myeloma cells); Dr C. W. Jones, £10,000 from SERC (production by growing and non-growing micro-organisms); Dr D. R. Crickley and Dr J. M. Varley, £20,844 from Cancer Research Campaign (study of cancer progression in solid and breast carcinomas using in situ hybridization); and £16,559 from Cancer Research Campaign (tyrosine-specific phosphorylation of vinculin and the morphology of normal and Rous sarcoma virus transformed cells); Professor W. V. Shaw and Professor W. J. Brown, £15,480 from SERC (synthetic oligonucleotides for in vitro genetic studies); Dr I. C. Eperon, £12,083 from Cancer Research Campaign (in vitro studies of effect of ionizing radiation on protein and DNA in presence and absence of oxygen and of various additives); Professor H. Simpson, £29,040 from Nat. Medical Research Fund (development of methods to assess gas mixing and exchange in the lung); Professor G. Norman, £20,769 from SERC (fundamental approaches to life cycle costing); Dr M. D. Schilling, £45,450 from BLRD (schools PROLOG information retrieval); and Professor H. C. MacGregor, £11,865 from SERC (application of DNA fingerprint technology to studies of avian behaviour).

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Universities continued

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING APPOINTMENTS IN GUIDED WAVE OPTICS AND ELECTRONIC MATERIALS

1. I.T. LECTURESHIP - REF. No. 5237/3T

This is the second of two new lectureships created through the Government's I.T. initiative in support of a major research group in INTEGRATED OPTICS AND OPTICAL COMMUNICATIONS. The person appointed will have some responsibility for a new M.Sc. Course in Optical Information Technology. Research potential will be an important factor in selection and an interest in the growth or device applications of III-V semiconductors including quantum well structures will be an advantage. Successful candidates will be required to have qualifications in physics, electronics and experience.

2. SEMICONDUCTOR TECHNOLOGIST (UGC FUNDED) - REF. No. 5516/1T

The University has instituted a new post to support the Departmental MBE research activities. Although previous experience of MBE is not essential the successful applicant will be due course responsible for the design and growth of epitaxial structures using a VG Semicon V80H MBE system, working closely with other groups within the Department to support research in the areas of thin film waveguide optics and nanometre electron-beam lithography. The post also carries responsibilities for the day-to-day running of the MBE laboratory. The person appointed will be encouraged to initiate new lines of research in the MBE growth of III-V semiconductors.

The salary will be within the range £7,820-£12,638 (interim scales under review) on the Grade 1A scale for Research and Academic Staff.

Further particulars of both appointments may be obtained from the Academic Personnel Office, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, where applications (8 copies) giving the names and addresses of three referees, should be lodged on or before 25th January, 1986.

In reply please quote appropriate reference number. (1010)

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TWO LECTURERS IN EDUCATION

Applications are invited from qualified experienced Teachers with relevant research interest for:

Post 1: The candidates should have post-graduate qualifications in the educational sciences and/or social sciences; areas of special interest might include some or all of: cognitive development, language acquisition, research methodology, learning difficulties. Experience of teaching children with learning difficulties would be a recommendation. Candidates must be eligible for registration with the General Teaching Council for Scotland.

Post 2: (3 year contract) The candidate should have a) A good Honours Degree and preferably post-graduate qualifications, b) Substantial experience in educational development in African and/or South Asian countries, and be able to take a comparative perspective on educational planning and curriculum development.

Salary scale £7,821 - £15,522 (under review) plus USB. The appointments will commence as soon as possible.

Applications, together with the names of two referees, should be sent by 20th January to the University Secretary, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LJ. Tel: 0786 73171. Ext. 2314, from whom further particulars are available. (2102)

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University of

Bristol

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

Applications are invited for a Research Assistantship on a project to investigate relationships between social identity, self-esteem and academic achievement in secondary schools. The project is funded by the University of Bristol and the Science Research Council. Successful candidates will be required to have qualifications in psychology and experience in research.

Applications with names of three referees should be sent to the Department of Psychology, University of Bristol, 808 Berkeley Square, Bristol BS8 1JA from whom further particulars may be obtained. (11725) (11)

Research and Studentships

North East Biotechnology Centre At Teesside Polytechnic

POST DOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Immobilisation of

Macromolecules

To join an interdisciplinary team working on anti-body production and receptor isolation with the aim of applying these proteins as reagents in immunoassays and receptor assays to produce biosensors and reagents for product isolation.

Research experience in immunochemistry, membrane systems, protein chemistry or ion selective electrodes would be welcome.

Salary: £7,820 - £12,638 (interim scales under review) on the Grade 1A scale for Research and Academic Staff.

Closing date for applications: 10 January 1986.

Teesside Polytechnic
Department of Humanities

LEA

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Applications are invited for the above post with a view to conducting a research programme on the structure and nature of working class society on Teesside in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Salary: £7,820 - £12,638 (interim scales under review) on the Grade 1A scale for Research and Academic Staff.

The appointment will be for a period of three years and the successful candidate will be required to register with the GNA for a higher degree. Candidates must possess at least an upper second class honours degree in History or related discipline.

Salary, which includes payment for up to 8 hours teaching assignment per week - £8,384 - £12,182 per annum.

Application forms and further particulars are available from The Personnel Section, Teesside Polytechnic, Borough Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 3BA.

Closing date for applications is 10 January 1986.

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University of

Surrey

Department of Chemistry & Process Engineering

RESEARCH FELLOW

Applications are invited for a Research Fellow in the Department of Chemistry and Process Engineering. The research fellow will be responsible for the supervision of research students and the conduct of research in the area of chemical engineering. The successful candidate will be required to have qualifications in chemistry and experience in research.

Applications with names of three referees should be sent to the Department of Chemistry and Process Engineering, University of Surrey, Box 21, Guildford GU1 2XH from whom further particulars may be obtained. (11725) (11)

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Applications are invited for the above post from candidates holding at least a good Honours degree or its equivalent in a relevant discipline.

An ability to contribute to some aspect of polymer science, teaching and research would be an advantage.

The successful applicant would be expected to make a major contribution to the development of physical chemistry in the course of the Department, which ranges from SCOTVEC certificates to GNA Honours degrees, as well as assuming an administrative role within the department.

Application forms and further details available from: Administrative Office (Physical Chemistry), Napier College, 219 Colinton Road, Edinburgh, Scotland. Tel: (031) 447 5114. (11725) (11)

Closing date: 10 January 1986.

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Feb

7 European Studies
14 Philosophy
21 Computer Studies (I)
28 History (I)

March

7 Maths and Physics (I)
14 Social Policy
21 English

April

4 Psychology (I)
11 Law
18 Environmental Sciences
(Including Geography) I
25 Sociology (I)

May

2 Chemistry
9 American Studies
16 Economics (I)
23 Biological Sciences (I)
30 Education (I)

June

6 Engineering
13 University Presses (Copies to be distributed at The Association of American University Presses meeting June 15-18)

Oct

3 Computer Studies (II)
10 History (II)
17 Maths and Physics (II)
24 Politics
31 Psychology (II)

Nov

7 Economics (II)
14 Biological Sciences (II)
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Dec

5 Education (II)

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